



Re-certification Audit Report

2010-2014 Sustainable Forestry Initiative® Standard

September 6, 2012

A. Wisconsin DNR County Forest System

FRS #: 1Y943

B. Scope:

☐ No Change ☒ Changed

SFI Program Objectives 1-7 and 14-20 of the SFI 2010-2014 Standard for land management for participating counties within the Wisconsin County Forest Program, encompassing approximately 2.2 million acres of forestland in the following 25 counties: Ashland, Barron, Bayfield, Burnett, Douglas, Eau Claire, Florence, Forest, Iron, Jackson, Juneau, Langlade, Lincoln, Marathon, Marinette, Oconto, Oneida, Polk, Price, Rusk, Sawyer, Taylor, Vilas, Washburn, and Wood. The SFI Certification Number is NSF-SFIS-1Y943.

C. NSF Audit Team:

Lead Auditor: Mike Ferrucci Auditors: JoAnn Hanowski (Dr. David Capen, SCS Lead)

D. Audit Dates: August 7-10, 2012

E. Reference Documentation:

2010-2014 SFI Standard®

Company SFI Documentation: Rev. Level: Date Revised:

F. Audit Results: Based on the results at this visit, the auditor concluded

- ☒ Acceptable with no nonconformances; or
- ☐ Acceptable with minor nonconformances to be corrected before the next scheduled audit visit;
- ☐ Not acceptable with one or two major nonconformances - corrective action required;
- ☐ Several major nonconformances - certification may be canceled without immediate action

G. Changes to Operations or to the SFI Standard:

Are there any significant changes in operations, procedures, specifications, FRS, etc. from the previous visit? ☐ Yes ☒ No If yes, provide brief description of the changes:

H. Other Issues Reviewed:

- ☒ Yes ☐ No Public report from previous audit(s) is posted on SFB web site.
- ☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ N.A. SFI and other relevant logos or labels are utilized correctly.
If no, document on CAR forms.
- ☒ Yes ☐ No The program is a Multi-site Organization:
Multi-Site Organization: A n organization having an identified central function (hereafter referred to as a central office — but not necessarily the headquarters of the organization) at which certain activities are planned, controlled or managed and a network of local offices or branches (sites) at which such activities are fully or partially carried out.
Source: SFI Requirements, Section 9, Appendix: Audits of Multi-Site Organizations
- ☐ IAF-MD1 or ☒ The alternate approach outlined in SFI Requirements, Section 9, Appendix 1 was assessed by NSF's Lead Auditor during the certification audit.
- ☐ Yes ☒ No Concerns/ issues are listed in the checklist (to be reviewed by NSF Forestry Program Manager)

I. Corrective Action Requests:

- ☒ Corrective Action Plan is not required.
- ☐ Corrective Action Plan is required within sixty days of this visit (for Minor Nonconformances). CARs will be verified during the next Surveillance Audit.
- ☐ Corrective Action Plan is required within thirty days of this visit (for Major Nonconformances). The auditor will make arrangements to verify the corrective action has been effectively implemented.

At the conclusion of this Surveillance Audit visit, the following CARs remain open:
MAJOR(S): 0 MINOR(S): 0 Opportunities for Improvement (OFIs) identified: 3

J. Future Audit Schedule:

Follow-up or Surveillance Audits are required by the 2010-2014 Sustainable Forestry Initiative Standard ®. The next Surveillance Audit is scheduled for August 2013. The assigned lead auditor will contact you 2-3 months prior to this date to reconfirm and begin preparations. Another recertification must be completed within 3 years of the issue of this certificate.

For multi-site organizations the sampling plan requires audits of the central function and at least 3 of 25 sites each year for Surveillance Audits and at least 4 sites for recertification.

Appendices:

Appendix I: Surveillance Notification Letter and Audit Schedule

Appendix II: Public Surveillance Audit Report

Appendix III: Audit Matrix

Appendix IV: SFI Reporting Form (modest changes listed in text, not on form)

Appendix I



Surveillance Notification Letter and Audit Schedule

Confirmed August 1, 2012

2012 Audit Plan - SFI Re-Certification Supplement

The 2012 audit of the Wisconsin County Forestry Program against the SFI 2010-2014 Standard will be a re-certification audit covering all relevant requirements. A sample of 6 of the 25 participating counties will be visited by the audit team as described in the audit plan below.

In addition the central office requirements will be reviewed during the opening meeting to be held from 6:00-8:00 pm in the Conference Room, AmericInn Lodge and Suites as well as at other times during the course of the audit as time is available. Records and other information pertaining to the centralized aspects of the program should be brought to the opening meeting or otherwise made available to the SFI Lead Auditor Mike Ferrucci. The NSF checklist for SFI 2010-2014 Standard including the multi-site requirements is included with this revised audit plan to facilitate your preparations.

Requirements

The requirements of the Sustainable Forestry Initiative® Standard, 2010-2014 Edition will be used in the audit; no indicators were modified. As with the initial certification the scope includes timberland only, as the Wisconsin County Forest Program's SFI programs do not include procurement operations. Several of the SFI requirements are outside of the scope of the county programs and are excluded from the scope of the SFI Certification Audit as follows:

- Indicator 2.1.3 Plantings of exotic tree species
- Indicator 3.2.5 Alternatives to BMPs (BMPs are in place)
- Objectives 8 – 13 Procurement Requirements

Scope Statement:

The sustainable forestry activities and land management operations of participating counties within the Wisconsin County Forest System, encompassing approximately 2,193,294 acres of forestland in the following 25 counties: Ashland, Barron, Bayfield, Burnett, Douglas, Eau Claire, Florence, Forest, Iron, Jackson, Juneau, Langlade, Lincoln, Marathon, Marinette, Oconto, Oneida, Polk, Price, Rusk, Sawyer, Taylor, Vilas, Washburn, and Wood. The SFI Certification Number is NSF-SFIS-1Y943.

Please contact me with any questions.



Mike Ferrucci, Lead Auditor, NSF-ISR

mferrucci@iforest.com

203-887-9248

2012 County Forest Certification Audit Itinerary

Audit Team

Mike Ferrucci
Dave Capen
JoAnn Hanowski

DNR CO Staff

| | |
|--|---------------------|
| Joe Schwantes - County Forest Coordinator | Cell # 715-330-1591 |
| Mark Heyde - Certification Coordinator | Cell # 608-220-9780 |
| Chris Martin - Public and Private Lands Forester | Cell # 414-248-1461 |

Jane Severt- Executive Director, Wisconsin County Forest Association

*Deirdre Raimo- US Forest Service- NA Forest Legacy Coordinator: Will be attending the audit to observe

Schedule:

Tuesday August 7: Travel Day, SFI Opening Meeting

6:30-8:30 pm SFI Opening Meeting and Review of Centralized Aspects of SFI Program (Location: **AmericInn Lodge & Suites 3300 East Main Street Merrill, WI**)

Wednesday August 8: 8 am to 4:30 pm - auditing in selected counties

Vilas County (Ferrucci); Larry Stevens (Vilas CF Administrator) and Additional Co. Staff ; Joe Schwantes-DNR CF CO , Jill Nemec – DNR Liaison Forester – Vilas County

Opening Meeting - introductions, briefings- process (Mike) & forest (Larry) address: **Vilas Co Forestry Office 330 Court Street, Eagle River, WI 54521**

8-9:15 am Office - Selected SFI Requirements in Objectives 14-20

9 am to 4:00:00 PM Field -

4-4:30 Daily wrap-up: Remaining issues, Any audit team findings

- . Audit team should be back to Merrill by 6 pm; sooner if possible
- . Vilas Co will arrange lunch
- . Focus on the western portion of the forest.

Price County (Hanowski); Eric Holm (Price CF Administrator) and Additional Co. Staff; Kyle Schmidt – DNR Liaison Forester – Price County, Chris Martin DNR; Jane Severt WCFA; Carmen Hardin DNR Forest Hydrologist

8 am Opening Meeting – introductions, briefings- process (JoAnn) & forest (Eric) address:
Price Co. Normal Building 104 S. Eyder Ave, Phillips, WI 54555

8-9:15 am Office

9:30 am to 4 pm Field – Focus on the north-central portion of the forest

Eric's team will arrange lunch

4-4:30 Daily wrap-up: Remaining issues, Any preliminary audit findings

Auditor should be back to Merrill by 6 pm; sooner if possible

Eric's team will arrange lunch

Wood County (Capen); Fritz Schubert (Wood Co. Administrator) and Additional Co. Staff; Steve Grant – DNR Liaison Forester – Wood County; Mark Heyde DNR CO

8:30 am Opening Meeting – introductions, briefings- process (Dave) & forest (Fritz) address:
Wood County Courthouse, 400 Market St., Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54494

8:30-9:45 am Office

9:45 am to 4 pm Field

4-4:30 Daily wrap-up: Remaining issues, Any preliminary audit findings

Thursday August 9: 8 am to 4:30 pm - auditing in selected counties

Langlade County (Ferrucci, Hanowski); Steve Jackson (Langlade CF Administrator) Additional Staff; DNR-Joe Schwantes and Chris Martin

Thursday August 9 - (County offices in Antigo) address: **Langlade Forestry Office, 1633 Neva Rd, Antigo, WI 54409**

7:30 am Opening Meeting - introductions, briefings about the process (Mike) & forest (Steve and Eric)

8-9 am Office - SFI Requirements in Objectives 14-20

9 am to 4 pm Field -

4-4:30 Daily wrap-up: Remaining issues, Any audit team findings

- . Audit team should be back to the hotel by 5:30 pm if possible
- . Steve's team will arrange lunch
- . Focus on the NW portion of the forest

Taylor County (Capen); Brad Ruesch (Taylor CF Administrator) Additional Staff; Mark Heyde DNR, Jane Severt WCFA; Carmen Hardin DNR

8 am Opening Meeting – introductions, briefings- process (Dave) & forest (Brad) address:
Taylor Co Courthouse, 224 S 2nd St, Medford, WI 54451

8-9:15 am Office

9:30 am to 4 pm Field

4-4:30 Daily wrap-up: Remaining issues, Any preliminary audit findings

Friday August 10: Lincoln County

8 am – 2 pm Lincoln County (all 3 auditors); Kevin Kleinschmidt (Lincoln CF Administrator) Additional staff; DNR-Joe Schwantes, Mark Heyde, Chris Martin, Carmen Hardin; WCFA-Jane Severt

Lincoln County Portion; Underdown (T32N R7E & T33N R7E) and Newood (T33N 5E) blocks (20 minutes apart)

7:50 am Audit team arrive at meeting location address: **Lincoln Co Government Building, 801 N. Sales St., Merrill, WI 54452**

8 am Opening Meeting – introductions, briefings- process (Lead Auditors) & forest (Kevin)

8-9 am Office – Misc FSC & SFI Requirements

9 am to 1:30 pm Field; lunch provided by Lincoln County

On drive back to service center: Daily wrap-up for Lincoln County: Remaining issues

Audit team should be back to the service center by 2 pm if possible and no later than 2:15

Wrap-up Activities**LINCOLN COUNTY GOVERNMENT CENTER IN MERRILL (801 N. Sales St. / Room 156)**

2-2:30 Optional- Program provides information on any remaining issues raised by team

2-3 pm Audit Team meeting – Audit Team Only

3-4 pm Closing Meeting – Counties, DNR, and Audit Team - Any audit team findings

Conference Call number 855-947-8255 Passcode:

9680753



27 July 2012, Revised 31 July 2012 (Ferrucci)

Mark A. Heyde, Forest Certification Coordinator
Joe Schwantes, County and Public Forestry Coordinator
Chris Martin, Public and Private Lands Forester
Bureau of Forest Management
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
PO Box 7921
Madison WI 53707

Re: 2012 FSC Surveillance audit—County Forest Program

Dear Mark, Joe, and Chris:

As you know, we are scheduled to conduct the annual surveillance audit of the Wisconsin County Forest Program between Tuesday, 7 August, and Friday, 10 August, 2012. The audit will commence with an opening meeting at 7:00pm on Tuesday, at a location in or near Merrill, WI. It will conclude with a closing meeting to be held at 3:00pm on Friday at the Lincoln County Government Center, Room 156, in Merrill. Additional information regarding the itinerary is provided in the “Tentative Audit Schedule” below.

This is a partial review of your FSC program to confirm that it continues to be in conformance with the standard and that progress has been made in closing the outstanding CARs. Please note that the relevant standards for this audit are the FSC-US Forest Management Standard v1.0 and the FSC Standard for Group Entities in Forest Management v1.0. I have attached conformance tables for these two standards with notes that indicate areas of importance for the 2012 audit.

A simultaneous surveillance audit will be conducted to determine continued conformance with SFI standards. The audit team will consist of David Capen, FSC lead auditor, Mike Ferrucci, SFI lead auditor, and JoAnn Hanowski, FSC/SFI auditor.

Logistics

- The audit team will have their own vehicle for transportation to/from motels and DNR offices. Transportation to field sites will be provided by DNR personnel.
- DNR has arranged lodging for auditors.
- County Forest personnel will provide lunches during field visits.

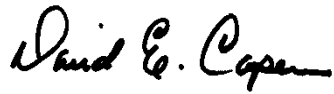
Documentation Requested

When we arrive each day for field visits, please have foresters in each region prepared to provide documentation for the selected sites (cutting plans, maps, contracts, etc). We do not

need volumes of paper for each field site. Rather, a 2-3 page description of each harvest prescription, if available, would be ideal. Having files, with additional information, available for review would be useful. Preliminary lists of timber-sale sites have already been submitted by the two lead auditors to County Forest Administrators, and final site selection will be completed in the next 2-3 days.

The following tentative schedule should be reviewed by all participants. This schedule can be adapted either in advance or on site to accommodate any special circumstances. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "David E. Capen". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath the name.

David E. Capen for Scientific Certification Systems

Appendix II



Wisconsin DNR County Forest Program SFI Summary Recertification Audit Report

The Wisconsin County Forest Program has achieved continuing conformance with and an upgrade to the Sustainable Forestry Initiative® Standard, 2010-2014 Edition, according to the NSF-ISR SFIS Certification Audit Process.

The 25 participating Wisconsin County Forests have been certified to the Sustainable Forestry Initiative® Standard since December 10, 2004 (SFI certificate #NSF-SFIS-1Y943). In 2009 the scope of the Wisconsin SFI Program was expanded, and the program was recertified. This report describes the second annual follow-up Surveillance Audit which also served as an upgrade audit.

Wisconsin County Forest Program includes 2.3 million acres of forestland managed by 29 counties in the central and northern portions of Wisconsin. The scope of the SFIS Certification encompasses sustainable forestry activities of participating counties within the Wisconsin County Forest System and land management operations in selected Wisconsin County Forests including 25 counties encompassing approximately 2.2 million acres of publicly owned forests, including the following counties:

Ashland, Barron, Bayfield, Burnett, Douglas, Eau Claire , Florence , Forest , Iron, Jackson , Juneau , Langlade, Lincoln , Marathon , Marinette, Oconto, Oneida, Polk, Price, Rusk, Sawyer, Taylor, Vilas, Washburn, Wood

Responsibility for management of these forests rests with elected county boards, with management activities implemented by county-employed foresters supported by DNR personnel. The forests are managed to provide revenue, habitat, recreational opportunities, and to protect biodiversity values and special sites. The lands abound with a variety of game and non-game wildlife species, and attract a variety of recreationists from hunters to trail users to nature enthusiasts. The most common tree species in order are aspen, sugar maple, red maple, red oak, red pine, basswood, and white birch. Harvest levels over the past decade have averaged over 15 million board feet and 697,000 cords per year.

The Wisconsin County Forest's SFI Program is managed by Joseph A Schwantes, DNR County Forests Specialist. A County Forest Certification Committee comprised of representatives of the counties, the Wisconsin County Forest Association, and DNR staff help implement the SFI program, reviewing progress and making suggestions for improvements or changes as needed.

SFIS Surveillance Audit Process

The audit was performed on August 7-10, 2012 by Mike Ferrucci, Lead Auditor and JoAnn Hanowski, Avian Ecologist. FSC Lead Auditor Dr. David Capen also supported the team's activities. Auditors meet requirements for conducting SFIS Certification Audits per "Section 9. SFI 2010-2014 Audit Procedures and Auditor Qualifications and Accreditation" of Requirements for the SFI 2010-2014 Program: Standards, Rules for Label Use, Procedures, and Guidance.

The audit was conducted in conjunction with an FSC audit covering many of the same counties, the same organizational approach, and by the same audit team. The two processes (SFI and FSC) shared audit teams and reviewed much of the same evidence, but each program had a different team leader and audit objectives. This report is intended to describe the SFI portion of the evaluation; information about the FSC annual audit is available from Wisconsin DNR.

The objective of the audit was to assess ongoing conformance of the firm's SFI Program to the requirements of the Sustainable Forestry Initiative® Standard, 2010-2014 Edition. Six counties were reviewed: Langlade, Lincoln, Price, Taylor, Wood and Vilas Counties. Forest practices that were the focus of field inspections have been conducted since January 1, 2011. All of the relevant SFI requirements were examined during the audit. Multi-site sampling requirements provided in Section 9 of Requirements for the SFI 2010-2014 Program: Standards, Rules for Label Use, Procedures, and Guidance were also reviewed.

The requirements of the Sustainable Forestry Initiative® Standard, 2010-2014 Edition were used in the audit; no indicators were modified. As with the initial certification, the scope included timberland only, as the Wisconsin County Forest Program's SFI programs do not include procurement operations. Several of the SFI Performance Measures were outside of the scope of the county programs and were excluded from the scope of the SFI Certification Audit as follows:

- Indicator 2.1.3 Plantings of exotic tree species
- Objectives 8 – 13 Procurement Requirements
- Indicator 3.2.5 Alternatives to BMPs (BMPs are in place)

The review was governed by a detailed audit protocol and plan designed to enable the audit team determine conformance with the applicable SFI requirements. The process included the assembly and review of audit evidence consisting of documents, interviews, and on-site inspections of ongoing or completed forest practices. Documents describing these activities were provided in advance, and a sample of the available audit evidence was reviewed.

During the audit NSF-ISR reviewed a sample of the written documentation assembled to provide objective evidence of SFIS Conformance. NSF-ISR also selected field sites for inspection based upon the risk of environmental impact, likelihood of occurrence, special features, and other criteria outlined in the NSF-ISR SFI-SOP. NSF-ISR also selected and interviewed stakeholders such as contract loggers and other interested parties, and interviewed employees within the organization to confirm that the SFI Standard was understood and actively implemented.

The possible findings of the audit included Full Conformance, Major Non-conformance, Minor Non-conformance, Opportunity for Improvement, and Practices that exceeded the requirements.

Overview of 2012 Audit Findings

Wisconsin County Forest Program's SFI Program was found to be in conformance with the SFIS Standard. There were no non-conformances, and the program was recommended for re-certification for 3 years.

Some areas for continuing emphasis have been identified. In the SFI system these are termed "opportunities for improvement" (OFI). Such findings do not indicate a current deficiency with respect to the standard, but served to alert Wisconsin County Forest Program to areas that could be strengthened or which could merit future attention. Three "Opportunities for Improvement" were identified; the first of these three was added after the closing meeting:

SFI Indicator 2.1.3 requires "Clear criteria to judge adequate regeneration and appropriate actions to correct understocked areas and achieve acceptable species composition and stocking rates for both planting and natural regeneration."

There is an opportunity to improve processes for monitoring natural regeneration. This could prove useful in dealing with expected trends in deer populations and increasing impacts of deer browse on natural regeneration that are being reported in some areas.

SFI Indicator 4.1.5 specifies a "Program for assessment, conducted either individually or collaboratively, of forest cover types, age or size classes, and habitats at the individual ownership level and, where credible data are available, across the landscape, and take into account findings in planning and management activities."

There is an opportunity to improve efforts to take into account forest cover types, age or size classes, and habitats across the landscape, for example with respect to Aspen habitat conditions on county forestland within the context of surrounding lands.

SFI Indicator 15.1.1 states "Financial or in-kind support of research to address questions of relevance in the region of operations. The research shall include some of the following issues: a. forest health, productivity, and ecosystem functions; b. chemical efficiency, use rate and integrated pest management; c. water quality and/or effectiveness of best management practices including effectiveness of water quality and best management practices for protecting the quality, diversity and distributions of fish and wildlife habitats; d. wildlife management at stand- and landscape-levels; e. conservation of biological diversity; f. ecological impacts of bioenergy feedstock removals on productivity, wildlife habitat, water quality and other ecosystem functions; g. climate change research for both adaptation and mitigation; h. social issues; i. forest operations efficiencies and economics; j. energy efficiency; k. life cycle assessment; l. avoidance of illegal logging; and m. avoidance of controversial sources".

There is an opportunity to improve by ensuring that the Wisconsin DNR Silvicultural Field Trial reporting system is utilized effectively.

Review of 2011 Findings

There were no Minor Non-conformances in 2011.

The following 2011 Opportunities for Improvement” have been considered, and are no longer an issue:

There was an opportunity to improve the use of the system to document road and trail conditions including planning to address maintenance needs. (SFI Indicator 3.1.1 requires a “Program to implement state or provincial best management practices during all phases of management activities.”) County administrators reviewed methods employed to plan for and to track road and trail infrastructure maintenance needs and projects.

There was an opportunity to improve the pace at which new information about regeneration is made available to field personnel. (SFI Indicator 2.1.3 “Clear criteria to judge adequate regeneration and appropriate actions to correct understocked areas and achieve acceptable species composition and stocking rates for both planting and natural regeneration.”) The Wisconsin DNR has made changes to hasten the pace of updates to chapters in the Silviculture Handbook.

2012 Exceptional Practices

Wisconsin County Forest Program was found to exceed the SFI 2010-2014 Standard as follows:

Management efforts and results in terms of forest health are exceptional.

(SFI Performance Measure 2.4 “Program Participants shall manage so as to protect forests from damaging agents such as environmentally or economically undesirable wildfire, pests and diseases to maintain and improve long-term forest health, productivity and economic viability.”)

The program significantly exceeds the standard for minimizing clearcut size.

(SFI Indicator 5.2.1 “Average size of clearcut harvest areas does not exceed 120 acres, except when necessary to respond to forest health emergencies or other natural catastrophes.”)

The Wisconsin County Forests provide an exemplary array of recreation opportunities; forest management is implemented to enhance these. Further the counties have done an exceptional job of balancing road use with environmental protections so as to provide public road access while having a sustainable road system.

(SFI Performance Measure 5.4 “Program Participants shall support and promote recreational opportunities for the public.”)

The county forests provide a model for local citizen participation through the county forest committees.

(SFI Performance Measure 18.1 “Program Participants with forest management responsibilities on public lands shall participate in the development of public land planning and management processes.”)

The next Surveillance Audit is scheduled for August 2013. This will be a surveillance audit.

General Description of Evidence of Conformity

NSF's audit team used a variety of evidence to determine conformance. A general description of this evidence is provided below, organized by SFI Objective.

Objective 1. Forest Management Planning - To broaden the implementation of sustainable forestry by ensuring long-term forest productivity and yield based on the use of the best scientific information available.

Summary of Evidence – The forest management plans for Wood, Taylor, Vilas, Langlade, Price, and Lincoln Counties, supporting documents including WDNR manuals and handbooks, and the county forest inventory reports were the key evidence of conformance.

Objective 2. Forest Productivity - To ensure long-term forest productivity, carbon storage and conservation of forest resources through prompt reforestation, soil conservation, afforestation and other measures.

Summary of Evidence – Field observations and associated records were used to confirm practices. There are ongoing programs for reforestation, for protection against insects and diseases and wildfire, and for careful management of activities which could potentially impact soil and long-term productivity.

Objective 3. Protection and Maintenance of Water Resources - To protect water quality in streams, lakes and other water bodies.

Summary of Evidence – Field observations of a range of sites were the key evidence. Auditors visited portions of selected field sites that were closest to water resources.

Objective 4. Conservation of Biological Diversity including Forests with Exceptional Conservation Value To manage the quality and distribution of wildlife habitats and contribute to the conservation of biological diversity by developing and implementing stand- and landscape-level measures that promote habitat diversity and the conservation of forest plants and animals, including aquatic species.

Summary of Evidence – Field observations, written plans and policies, use of college-trained field biologists, availability of specialists, and regular staff involvement in conferences and workshops that cover scientific advances were the evidence used to assess the requirements involved biodiversity conservation.

Objective 5. Management of Visual Quality and Recreational Benefits - To manage the visual impact of forest operations and provide recreational opportunities for the public.

Summary of Evidence – Field observations of completed operations and policies/procedures for visual quality were assessed during the evaluation. Maps of recreation sites as well as field visits, helped confirm a very strong commitment to recreation programs and facilities.

Objective 6. Protection of Special Sites - To manage lands that are ecologically, geologically, or culturally important in a manner that takes into account their unique qualities.

Summary of Evidence – Field observations of completed operations, records of special sites, training records, and written protection plans were all assessed during the evaluation.

Objective 7. Efficient Use of Forest Resources - To promote the efficient use of forest resources.

Summary of Evidence – Field observations of completed operations, contract clauses, inspection reports, and discussions with supervising foresters and with loggers provided the key evidence.

Objectives 8 through 13 are not applicable

Objective 14. Legal and Regulatory Compliance -

Compliance with applicable federal, provincial, state and local laws and regulations.

Summary of Evidence – Field reviews of ongoing and completed operations were the most critical evidence.

Objective 15. Forestry Research, Science, and Technology - To support forestry research, science, and technology, upon which sustainable forest management decisions are based.

Summary of Evidence – Financial records and awareness of predicted climate change impacts were confirmed.

Objective 16. Training and Education -To improve the implementation of sustainable forestry practices through appropriate training and education programs.

Summary of Evidence – Training records of selected personnel, records associated with harvest sites audited, and stakeholder interviews were the key evidence for this objective.

Objective 17. Community Involvement in the Practice of Sustainable Forestry -

To broaden the practice of sustainable forestry by encouraging the public and forestry community to participate in the commitment to sustainable forestry, and publicly report progress.

Summary of Evidence – Interviews, agendas for meetings, and participation in the Wisconsin SFI Implementation Committee were sufficient to assess the requirements.

Objective 18: Public Land Management Responsibilities -

To support and implement sustainable forest management on public lands.

Summary of Evidence – Interviews and review of policies were used to confirm the requirements.

Objective 19. Communications and Public Reporting - To broaden the practice of sustainable forestry by documenting progress and opportunities for improvement.

Summary of Evidence – Reports filed with SFI Inc. and the SFI website were the key evidence.

Objective 20. Management Review and Continual Improvement - To promote continual improvement in the practice of sustainable forestry, and to monitor, measure, and report performance in achieving the commitment to sustainable forestry.

Summary of Evidence – Records of program reviews including annual “Partnership Meetings”, periodic internal audits, and agendas and notes from management review meetings, and interviews with personnel from all involved levels in the organization were assessed.

Relevance of Forestry Certification

Third-party certification provides assurance that forests are being managed under the principles of sustainable forestry, which are described in the Sustainable Forestry Initiative Standard as:

1. Sustainable Forestry

To practice sustainable forestry to meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs by practicing a land stewardship ethic that integrates reforestation and the managing, growing, nurturing and harvesting of trees for useful products and ecosystem services such as the conservation of soil, air and water quality, carbon, biological diversity, wildlife and aquatic habitats, recreation, and aesthetics.

2. Forest Productivity and Health

To provide for regeneration after harvest and maintain the productive capacity of the forest land base, and to protect and maintain long-term forest and soil productivity. In addition, to protect forests from economically or environmentally undesirable levels of wildfire, pests, diseases, invasive exotic plants and animals and other damaging agents and thus maintain and improve long-term forest health and productivity.

3. Protection of Water Resources

To protect water bodies and riparian zones, and to conform with best management practices to protect water quality.

4. Protection of Biological Diversity

To manage forests in ways that protect and promote biological diversity, including animal and plant species, wildlife habitats, and ecological or natural community types.

5. Aesthetics and Recreation

To manage the visual impacts of forest operations, and to provide recreational opportunities for the public.

6. Protection of Special Sites

To manage forests and lands of special significance (ecologically, geologically or culturally important) in a manner that protects their integrity and takes into account their unique qualities.

7. Responsible Fiber Sourcing Practices in North America

To use and promote among other forest landowners sustainable forestry practices that are both scientifically credible and economically, environmentally and socially responsible.

8. Avoidance of Controversial Sources including Illegal Logging in Offshore Fiber Sourcing

To avoid wood fiber from illegally logged forests when procuring fiber outside of North America, and to avoid sourcing fiber from countries without effective social laws.

9. Legal Compliance

To comply with applicable federal, provincial, state, and local forestry and related environmental laws, statutes, and regulations.

10. Research

To support advances in sustainable forest management through forestry research, science and technology.

11. Training and Education

To improve the practice of sustainable forestry through training and education programs.

12. Public Involvement

To broaden the practice of sustainable forestry on public lands through community involvement.

13. Transparency

To broaden the understanding of forest certification to the SFI 2010-2014 Standard by documenting certification audits and making the findings publicly available.

14. Continual Improvement

To continually improve the practice of forest management, and to monitor, measure and report performance in achieving the commitment to sustainable forestry.

Source: Sustainable Forestry Initiative® (SFI) Standard, 2010-2014 Edition

For Additional Information Contact:

For More Information Contact:

Joseph A Schwantes, County Forests Specialist
Wisconsin DNR – Forestry Division
101 S Webster Street - FR/4, Madison WI 53703
Joseph.Schwantes@wisconsin.gov 608-264-9217

or

Mike Ferrucci, SFI Program Manager
NSF-International Strategic Registrations
789 N. Dixboro Rd, Ann Arbor, MI 48105
203-887-9248 (Corporate Office Phone 1-888-NSF-9000) <http://www.nsf-isr.org>

Appendix III



Audit Matrix

Wisconsin DNR County Forestry Program

August 2012 Recertification NSF-ISR SFI 2010-2014 MATRIX

Findings and Instructions:

| | |
|-----------------------|---|
| C | Conformance |
| Exr | Exceeds the Requirements |
| Maj | Major Non-conformance |
| Min | Minor Non-conformance |
| OFI | Opportunity for Improvement (can also be in Conformance) |
| NA | Not Applicable |
| Likely Gap * | Likely Gap Against 2010-2014 SFIS (used for scoping or baseline audits)* |
| Likely Conf. * | Likely Conformance With 2010-2014 SFIS (used for scoping or baseline audits)* |
| Auditor | Optional; may be used for audit planning. |
| 12, 13 | Date Codes, for example: 12= July 2012; 13=Aug. 2013 |
| Other | Words in <i>italics</i> are defined in the standard. |

☐ Yes
 ☐ No
 ☒ N.A.
 NSF mark (logo) is being used correctly.
 Audit Notes: NSF mark (logo) is not being used.

Objective 1. Forest Management Planning

To broaden the implementation of *sustainable forestry* by ensuring *long-term forest productivity* and yield based on the use of the *best scientific information* available.

| | 2010-2014 Requirement | Audit -or | <u>C</u> | <u>EXR</u> | <u>Maj</u> | <u>Min</u> | <u>OFI</u> | <u>Likely Gap *</u> | <u>Likely Conf. *</u> |
|-------|---|--------------|----------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1.1 | Program Participants shall ensure that forest management plans include long-term harvest levels that are sustainable and consistent with appropriate growth-and-yield models. | MF | 12 | | | | | | |
| Notes | Management Plans for the six counties visited in 2012 were reviewed. These plans were written in 2006 and are updated either ad hoc as issues arise (including changes driven by third-party certification findings) or regularly each year as follows: “305.4.1 Schedule for Updating: By June 30th of each year the Forest Administrator will develop and distribute copies of the following to each official copy-holder of the County Forest Plan: (1) Approved amendments. (2) Annual accomplishment report (3) Current annual work plan and budget.” Also see indicators below. | | | | | | | | |

| | 2010-2014 Requirement (Performance Measures bold) | Audit or | <u>C</u> | <u>EXR</u> | <u>Maj</u> | <u>Min</u> | <u>OFI</u> | <u>Likely Gap *</u> | <u>Likely Conf. *</u> |
|-------|--|-------------|----------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1.1.1 | Forest management planning at a level appropriate to the size and scale of the operation, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. a long-term resources analysis; b. a periodic or ongoing forest inventory; c. a land classification system; d. soils inventory and maps, where available; e. access to growth-and-yield modeling capabilities; f. up-to-date maps or a geographic information system; g. recommended sustainable harvest levels for areas available for harvest; and h. a review of non-timber issues (e.g. recreation, tourism, pilot projects and economic incentive programs to promote water protection, carbon storage, bioenergy feedstock production, or biological diversity conservation, or to address climate-induced ecosystem change). | MF, JH | 12 | | | | | | |

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-------|---|--------------|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----------------|-------------------|--|------|---------------|--|-----------------------------------|------|--------|--|---|------|--------|-----|--------------|------|--------|-----|-------------|
| Notes | Vilas, Price, Langlade, Lincoln, Wood, and Taylor Counties each have 15-Year County Forest Management Plans. The required items a through g are included in these comprehensive forest management plans and associated supporting documentation such as the Annual Work Plans, Annual Accomplishment Reports, Manuals, and associated guidance documents for the programs. Maps and inventory data are stored and used in the GIS/database system known as WisFIRs. a. Prior to development of the current 15-year plans an Environmental Assessment was completed for the system. County-level assessments are a major part of the plans. b. Foresters inventory a portion of each county forest annually using the RECON system. FIA data provide broad growth determinations. c. Example “Land Classification System” from the Lincoln County Management Plan, Section 820.1: “Forested cover types associated with the Lincoln County Forest (percentages and brief descriptions provided)... 49% Aspen, 32% Northern Hardwood, 8% Swamp Conifer...). Plant communities are normally managed within the guidelines found in the Wisconsin DNR Silviculture and Forest Aesthetics Handbook 2431.5. d. GIS-layers include soils and topography. e. WisFIRs; see 1.1.3 and 1.1.4 below f. GIS contained within WisFIRS g. Allowable cut determinations based on area control are included in management plans, providing a good analysis, description of methods, and strategic approaches to deal with age class imbalances. Annual tactical planning refines these harvest calculations. Also see 1.1.3 & 1.1.4 below. h. Management plans cover the following non-timber issues: recreation, wildlife and biodiversity, operations, fire, pests, many others. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1.1.2 | Documentation of annual harvest trends in relation to the sustainable forest management plan in a manner appropriate to document past and future activities. | MF | 12 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Notes | Annual accomplishment reports document actual harvests. Harvest levels in this “area control system” for each of the past 3 years were provided in acres treated per timber type compared to planned. (Source: CY11 – Rpt. 301; Acres Estab. - Planning Yr – Rpt.201) <table><tr><td>Year</td><td>Acres Treated</td><td></td><td>Long Term Harvest goal 15-yr avg.</td></tr><tr><td>2009</td><td>46,148</td><td></td><td>not available, assumed to be about 60,000 acres</td></tr><tr><td>2010</td><td>47,497</td><td>---</td><td>60,215 PY 11</td></tr><tr><td>2011</td><td>59,622</td><td>---</td><td>60,079 PY12</td></tr></table> Left column represents “established” acres, and does not include deferred acres, which will bring the totals closer to planned; Right column, Long Term Harvest Goal 15-year average does not include backlog acres because these are quite variable and because counties are free to apply their own “approach” to backlog acres (either setting a new date perhaps 10-years hence, for example, or leaving the date unchanged and considering the stands for treatment each year.) Partnership Meeting Reports document the “Timber Harvest Acreage Goals” for each type; these are reviewed by county and state foresters and adjusted as needed to match resources available for sale set up, allow for market conditions, or for other operations reasons. | | | | | | | | | | Year | Acres Treated | | Long Term Harvest goal 15-yr avg. | 2009 | 46,148 | | not available, assumed to be about 60,000 acres | 2010 | 47,497 | --- | 60,215 PY 11 | 2011 | 59,622 | --- | 60,079 PY12 |
| Year | Acres Treated | | Long Term Harvest goal 15-yr avg. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2009 | 46,148 | | not available, assumed to be about 60,000 acres | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2010 | 47,497 | --- | 60,215 PY 11 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2011 | 59,622 | --- | 60,079 PY12 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | 2010-2014 Requirement | Audit -or | C | EXR | Maj | Min | OFI | Likely Gap * | Likely Conf. * | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

| | | | | | | | | | |
|--------------|--|----|----|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| 1.1.3 | A forest inventory system and a method to calculate growth and yield. | MF | 12 | | | | | | |
| Notes | WISFIRs program is used each year to determine harvest levels (acres) based on the most recent inventory information. Confirmed a limited portion of the inventory data and its currency by review of several inventory reports generated by the WISFIRs system. Basal area growth rates are used to estimate the number of years it will take to advance treated (thinned or CC) stands to the next treatment target date. FIA data are reviewed to estimate growth, but the system is driven by stand-by-stand assessments completed immediate prior to treatment, not growth estimates. | | | | | | | | |

| | | | | | | | | | |
|--------------|---|--------------|----------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| | 2010-2014 Requirement | Audit -or | <u>C</u> | <u>EXR</u> | <u>Maj</u> | <u>Min</u> | <u>OFI</u> | <u>Likely Gap *</u> | <u>Likely Conf. *</u> |
| 1.1.4 | Periodic updates of forest inventory and recalculation of planned harvests to account for changes in growth due to productivity increases or decreases (e.g. improved data, long-term drought, fertilization, climate change, forest land ownership changes, etc.). | MF | 12 | | | | | | |
| Notes | <p>Working in close cooperation with foresters from Wisconsin DNR, all counties have active inventory efforts. Each year stands in a percentage of the forest are evaluated and the inventory information, recommended management approach, and next treatment or examination year are updated in the WisFIRs database. Inventory information usually includes data from field cruises (plots or visual estimates) although some types are updated based on photos (cedar or spruce for example). Information on inventory status is regularly checked, with a closer review during the annual partnership meetings. The goal is to maintain inventory sufficiently current to allow good decision-making; generally data up to 20-years old is considered “up-to date”. Lincoln County attempts to conduct recon on 10% of the acres every year.</p> <p>Confirmed that Vilas County is focusing on the backlog of recon/inventory work. A summer intern has been hired. From Vilas Partnership Meeting Report: “Recon needs: Old recon is a priority (currently 504 stands in Vilas with recon from 1920-1992 – LOTS of acres). Need to update 5% or 2050 acres annually – this should be fresh recon, not updated sales. There are many non-productive stands (KG, lakes, ROWs) that just need a date change or could be updated using photo interpretation.</p> <p>Langlade County: 80% of acres have inventory data that was done within the past 20 years, which is the goal. The remaining 20% of “older” acres have been prioritized, with 19,918 of 26,891 acres in lower priority types (Aspen, Cedar, Black Spruce, and Tamarack). To keep inventory current (under 20 years) requires 6,400+- acres of recon annually; 4,000 acres are updated through the TS process (established or deferred acres).</p> <p>WisFIRS planning is to be “run and accepted” at the county level to develop an updated harvest plan on an annual basis. A major change in inventory or stand conditions can result in a significant change in the annual harvest goals in the next run/acceptance of planning. Evidence that this occurs was found in the WCFA Cert-Legislative minutes dated 3-21-12 “10. Update on Salvage Operations in NW Counties - Burnett County has 21 sales going right now. Washburn County is getting going on five or six... There was a question regarding plans for reforestation. It was stated that most of the wood in Burnett and Washburn Counties was aspen. Burnett sold 59 sales at approximately 50% of value. Washburn County prices were higher; a high of \$40/cord. Going forward the storm decreased Burnett County’s harvest goal in the short term by about 400 acres per year. Real long-term impact is not yet known due to green up provision under forest certification; 5’ tall and 3 years old.”</p> | | | | | | | | |

| | | | | | | | | | |
|--|------------------------------|--------------|----------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| | 2010-2014 Requirement | Audit -or | <u>C</u> | <u>EXR</u> | <u>Maj</u> | <u>Min</u> | <u>OFI</u> | <u>Likely Gap *</u> | <u>Likely Conf. *</u> |
|--|------------------------------|--------------|----------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|

| | | | | | | | | | |
|--------------|---|----|----|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| 1.1.5 | Documentation of forest practices (e.g., planting, fertilization, and thinning) consistent with assumptions in harvest plans. | MF | 12 | | | | | | |
| Notes | <p>All counties enrolled in the county forest program (all part of the SFI certification and 4 more) are required to track harvests, maintain and inventory, calculate allowable harvest levels (annually) and provide this information to Wisconsin DNR. Wisconsin DNR provides the tools and systems for doing this work. Both harvest trends and annually re-calculated harvest targets are available for any county upon request. Confirmed that forest practices in Vilas, Langlade County, Price County, Lincoln County, Wood and Taylor County are clearly and consistently documented. Foresters document all treatments on 2460 forms, and treatment updates are factored into harvest plan updates.</p> <p>The WisFIRs program is used each year to determine harvest levels (acres) based on the most recent inventory information. Key assumptions in the area-based harvest plans are that stands receiving regeneration treatments will be monitored and that regeneration challenges will be addressed, that thinned stands will respond by growing at a rate that justifies the planned re-entry cycle, and that the overall forest will remain healthy and continue to develop and grow in predictable ways. These assumptions are clearly realistic (being met) based in large part by the sustained efforts of dedicated professional foresters supported by specialists (notably DNR biologists) and working with Wisconsin's renowned loggers.</p> | | | | | | | | |

Objective 2. Forest Productivity.

To ensure *long-term* forest *productivity*, carbon storage, and *conservation* of forest resources through prompt *reforestation*, soil *conservation*, *afforestation* and other measures.

| | 2010-2014 Requirement | Audit -or | <u>C</u> | <u>EXR</u> | <u>Maj</u> | <u>Min</u> | <u>OFI</u> | <u>Likely Gap *</u> | <u>Likely Conf. *</u> |
|--------------|---|--------------|----------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| 2.1 | Program Participants shall promptly reforest after final harvest. | MF | 12 | | | | | | |
| Notes | See indicators below. | | | | | | | | |

| | 2010-2014 Requirement | Audit -or | <u>C</u> | <u>EXR</u> | <u>Maj</u> | <u>Min</u> | <u>OFI</u> | <u>Likely Gap *</u> | <u>Likely Conf. *</u> |
|--------------|---|--------------|----------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| 2.1.1 | Designation of all harvest areas for either natural regeneration or by planting. | MF | 12 | | | | | | |
| Notes | All harvest plans, documented on the 2460 form, include a narrative section which describes in detail the silvicultural practices involved, including the method of regeneration. Most planting is restricted to a modest number of timber types including: Jack Pine, White Pine, Red Pine, and occasionally mixed conifer. Aspen and northern hardwood types are regenerated naturally. Langlade County has not planted in over 10 years. | | | | | | | | |

| | 2010-2014 Requirement | Audit -or | <u>C</u> | <u>EXR</u> | <u>Maj</u> | <u>Min</u> | <u>OFI</u> | <u>Likely Gap *</u> | <u>Likely Conf. *</u> |
|--|-----------------------|--------------|----------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
|--|-----------------------|--------------|----------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|

| | | | | | | | | | |
|--------------|--|----|----|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| 2.1.2 | Reforestation, unless delayed for site-specific environmental or forest health considerations or legal requirements, through planting within two years or two planting seasons, or by planned natural regeneration methods within five years. | MF | 12 | | | | | | |
| Notes | Confirmed by field observations; no observed regeneration delays in Aspen or pine types. Hardwood stands are more challenging to assess, but appear to have adequate regeneration in most gaps and within the matrix areas. See Opportunity for Improvement in 2.1.3 directly below. | | | | | | | | |

| | 2010-2014 Requirement | Audit -or | <u>C</u> | <u>EXR</u> | <u>Maj</u> | <u>Min</u> | <u>OFI</u> | <u>Likely Gap *</u> | <u>Likely Conf. *</u> |
|--------------|---|--------------|----------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| 2.1.3 | Clear criteria to judge adequate regeneration and appropriate actions to correct understocked areas and achieve acceptable species composition and stocking rates for both planting and natural regeneration. | MF | 12 | | | | 12 | | |
| Notes | <p><u>There is an opportunity to improve processes for monitoring natural regeneration. This could prove useful in dealing with expected trends in deer populations and increasing impacts of deer browse on natural regeneration that are being reported in some areas.</u></p> <p>Vilas: Summer intern is conducting regeneration surveys in the plantations, which are assessed every 1-3 years and then re-reviewed at ages 5 to 6: Jack Pine target 450-500 tpa; Red Pine target 600-650 tpa; WP and mixed higher target up to 800 if WP dominant. Will replant as needed. Planting reports were confirmed; tracking of regeneration is documented using form "Vilas County Forest Plantation Survey". The regeneration program is very organized, with an annually updated, prioritized list of plantations that have not yet been determined to meet stocking requirements. This table is titled Plantation Survival / Competition Surveys. Discussed that some stands are subsequently prescribed for release by hand cutting (PCT) or chemical treatment.</p> <p>Langlade Internal Audit notes "During close outs make note of regeneration. Starting to use WISFIRS for documentation. Used to conduct pine regeneration checks several years ago. Currently do not have a standardized process for natural regeneration surveys." Auditor determined that Price County does not have a standardized procedure for documenting natural regeneration. Discussions with several experienced foresters and biologists regarding challenges in regenerating northern hardwoods support the finding (Opportunity for Improvement).</p> | | | | | | | | |

| | 2010-2014 Requirement | Audit -or | <u>C</u> | <u>EXR</u> | <u>Maj</u> | <u>Min</u> | <u>OFI</u> | <u>Likely Gap *</u> | <u>Likely Conf. *</u> |
|--------------|--|--------------|----------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| 2.1.4 | Minimized plantings of exotic tree species, and research documentation that exotic tree species, planted operationally, pose minimal risk. | MF | 12 | | | | | | |
| Notes | Exotic tree species are not planted. | | | | | | | | |

| | 2010-2014 Requirement | Audit -or | <u>C</u> | <u>EXR</u> | <u>Maj</u> | <u>Min</u> | <u>OFI</u> | <u>Likely Gap *</u> | <u>Likely Conf. *</u> |
|--|-----------------------|--------------|----------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
|--|-----------------------|--------------|----------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|

| | | | | | | | | | |
|--------------|---|----|----|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| 2.1.5 | Protection of desirable or planned advanced natural regeneration during harvest. | MF | 12 | | | | | | |
| Notes | Confirmed by field observations. Much of the harvesting is done by very experienced loggers using mechanized harvesting equipment. Felling of selected timber is mostly by processors, although hand-felling is not uncommon for the largest trees. Workers doing hand felling have chain saw training and, judging from results of completed harvests appears to be proficient with directional felling techniques. In some cases sales are set up with requirements for fixed-head processors, allowing the trees to be moved away from the advanced natural regeneration before they are allowed to fall to the ground. Yarding (forwarding) trails are planned, well-spaced, and reasonably narrow, further limiting damage to regeneration. Some sales contract restricts pole skidding or have winter-only restrictions to help protect natural regeneration from yarding damage. | | | | | | | | |

| | | | | | | | | | |
|--------------|--|--------------|----------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| | 2010-2014 Requirement | Audit -or | <u>C</u> | <u>EXR</u> | <u>Maj</u> | <u>Min</u> | <u>OFI</u> | <u>Likely Gap *</u> | <u>Likely Conf. *</u> |
| 2.1.6 | Planting programs that consider potential ecological impacts of a different species or species mix from that which was harvested. | MF | 12 | | | | | | |
| Notes | Vilas County gets seedlings from state nursery. Langlade County has not planted in over 10 years. Lincoln County planting: 10-15 acres per year; 3,000 tamarack and 3,000 white spruce; 15,000 red pine; seedlings from state nursery; usually same species are planted; when changes are made this is based on soil/site capability. | | | | | | | | |

| | | | | | | | | | |
|--------------|---|--------------|----------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| | 2010-2014 Requirement | Audit -or | <u>C</u> | <u>EXR</u> | <u>Maj</u> | <u>Min</u> | <u>OFI</u> | <u>Likely Gap *</u> | <u>Likely Conf. *</u> |
| 2.1.7 | Afforestation programs that consider potential ecological impacts of the selection and planting of tree species in non-forested landscapes. | | NA | | | | | | |
| Notes | Interviews (Vilas County, Langlade County) and management plans suggest that no afforestation is being conducted. | | | | | | | | |

| | | | | | | | | | |
|--------------|---|--------------|----------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| | 2010-2014 Requirement | Audit -or | <u>C</u> | <u>EXR</u> | <u>Maj</u> | <u>Min</u> | <u>OFI</u> | <u>Likely Gap *</u> | <u>Likely Conf. *</u> |
| 2.2 | Program Participants shall minimize chemical use required to achieve management objectives while protecting employees, neighbors, the public and the environment, including wildlife and aquatic habitats. | MF | 12 | | | | | | |
| Notes | See indicators below. | | | | | | | | |

| | 2010-2014 Requirement | Audit -or | <u>C</u> | <u>EXR</u> | <u>Maj</u> | <u>Min</u> | <u>OFI</u> | <u>Likely Gap *</u> | <u>Likely Conf. *</u> |
|--------------|--|--------------|----------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| 2.2.1 | Minimized chemical use required to achieve management objectives. | MF | 12 | | | | | | |
| Notes | Acres of pesticides applied in the past year were provided by Wisconsin DNR in a Pesticide Use Table which covered the following information: County, Commercial Name of Pesticide/Herbicide, Active Ingredient, Quantity Used, Treatment Area (acres), and Reason for use. The total acres treated are quite low as a proportion of the lands in the county forestry program - 3600 acres or less than two-tenths of one percent of the lands are listed as receiving chemical treatment over the past 12 months. This figure is probably a significant overestimate because the acres include spot treatments of cut stumps and to destroy isolated populations of invasive species, | | | | | | | | |

| | 2010-2014 Requirement | Audit -or | <u>C</u> | <u>EXR</u> | <u>Maj</u> | <u>Min</u> | <u>OFI</u> | <u>Likely Gap *</u> | <u>Likely Conf. *</u> |
|--------------|--|--------------|----------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| 2.2.2 | Use of least-toxic and narrowest-spectrum pesticides necessary to achieve management objectives. | MF | 12 | | | | | | |
| Notes | <p>Glyphosate is the most commonly-used herbicide, applied for Trail rehabilitation/ control of invasives, Conifer Release, and site preparation. Glyphosate is a low-toxicity herbicides with no soil activity that works by direct contact. Oust XP (Sulfometuron methyl) is used for control of invasive plants (Garlic Mustard) and occasionally for site prep for conifer plantations.</p> <p>Cellutreat (Disodium Octahorate) is a fungicide increasingly being used for control of Annosum in thinned pine stands.</p> <p>While Glyphosate is somewhat broad spectrum it is being used at low rates and in ways that are consistent with the requirement.</p> | | | | | | | | |

| | 2010-2014 Requirement | Audit -or | <u>C</u> | <u>EXR</u> | <u>Maj</u> | <u>Min</u> | <u>OFI</u> | <u>Likely Gap *</u> | <u>Likely Conf. *</u> |
|--------------|---|--------------|----------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| 2.2.3 | Use of pesticides registered for the intended use and applied in accordance with label requirements. | MF | 12 | | | | | | |
| Notes | Interviews and review of documents provided evidence that this requirement was met. The Pesticide Use Table was reviewed and the chemicals used match the treatment objectives. | | | | | | | | |

| | 2010-2014 Requirement | Audit -or | <u>C</u> | <u>EXR</u> | <u>Maj</u> | <u>Min</u> | <u>OFI</u> | <u>Likely Gap *</u> | <u>Likely Conf. *</u> |
|-------|---|--------------|----------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| 2.2.4 | Use of integrated pest management where feasible. | MF | 12 | | | | | | |

| | |
|--------------|--|
| Notes | <p>IPM is the approach taken in this program, as documented in the plans: “Integrated pest management for the purpose of this Plan, is defined as follows: The maintenance of destructive agents, including insects, at tolerable levels, by the planned use of a variety of preventive, suppressive, or regulatory tactics and strategies that are ecologically and economically efficient and socially acceptable.”</p> <p>Stands are regularly assessed formally (RECON) and informally for presence of insects or diseases, and treatments are applied in a timely manner before outbreaks widen. The initial treatment approach is commonly salvage or sanitation.</p> <p>Forest management, through stocking control and use of moderately short rotations, is designed to maintaining healthy stands so as to minimize the need for chemical treatments. Stands visited were generally healthy and vigorous. Chemicals are only applied to address problems that can’t be resolved in other ways. For example release using brush saws is considered before chemical release is prescribed.</p> |
|--------------|--|

| | 2010-2014 Requirement | Audit -or | <u>C</u> | <u>EXR</u> | <u>Maj</u> | <u>Min</u> | <u>OFI</u> | <u>Likely Gap *</u> | <u>Likely Conf. *</u> |
|--------------|---|--------------|-----------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 2.2.5 | Supervision of forest chemical applications by state- or provincial-trained or certified applicators. | MF | 12 | | | | | | |
| Notes | <p>Price County records provided; a certified consulting forester was hired.</p> <p>Vilas County confirmed certification for 3 employees: Larry Stevens, John Gagon, Jim Jefferson, Equipment Operator</p> <p>Langlade County: Nathan Gilbert, Commercial Pesticide Applicator, Forest – Certification Number 088074, expires 7/31/2016</p> | | | | | | | | |

| | 2010-2014 Requirement | Audit -or | <u>C</u> | <u>EXR</u> | <u>Maj</u> | <u>Min</u> | <u>OFI</u> | <u>Likely Gap *</u> | <u>Likely Conf. *</u> |
|-------|---|--------------|-----------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 2.2.6 | <p>Use of management practices appropriate to the situation, for example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. notification of adjoining landowners or nearby residents concerning applications and chemicals used; b. appropriate multilingual signs or oral warnings; c. control of public road access during and immediately after applications; d. designation of streamside and other needed buffer strips; e. use of positive shutoff and minimal-drift spray valves; f. aerial application of forest chemicals parallel to buffer zones to minimize drift; g. monitoring of water quality or safeguards to ensure proper equipment use and protection of streams, lakes and other water bodies; h. appropriate storage of chemicals; i. filing of required state or provincial reports; and/or j. use of methods to ensure protection of threatened and endangered species. | MF | 12 | | | | | | |

| | | | | | | | | | |
|--------------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| Notes | Many of these techniques are required by law or regulation, and/or are specified in contracts for treatment. | | | | | | | | |
|--------------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|

| | | | | | | | | | |
|--------------|---|--------------|----------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| | 2010-2014 Requirement | Audit -or | <u>C</u> | <u>EXR</u> | <u>Maj</u> | <u>Min</u> | <u>OFI</u> | <u>Likely Gap *</u> | <u>Likely Conf. *</u> |
| 2.3 | Program Participants shall implement forest management practices to protect and maintain forest and soil productivity. | MF | 12 | | | | | | |
| Notes | See indicators below. | | | | | | | | |

| | | | | | | | | | |
|--------------|--|--------------|----------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| | 2010-2014 Requirement | Audit -or | <u>C</u> | <u>EXR</u> | <u>Maj</u> | <u>Min</u> | <u>OFI</u> | <u>Likely Gap *</u> | <u>Likely Conf. *</u> |
| 2.3.1 | Use of soils maps where available. | MF | 12 | | | | | | |
| Notes | Soil maps are contained in the GIS and are used in planning timber sales and other treatments. Foresters demonstrated knowledge of the soils in their units. Soils information is included in the sale narratives. | | | | | | | | |

| | | | | | | | | | |
|--------------|---|--------------|----------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| | 2010-2014 Requirement | Audit -or | <u>C</u> | <u>EXR</u> | <u>Maj</u> | <u>Min</u> | <u>OFI</u> | <u>Likely Gap *</u> | <u>Likely Conf. *</u> |
| 2.3.2 | Process to identify soils vulnerable to compaction, and use of appropriate methods to avoid excessive soil disturbance. | MF | 12 | | | | | | |
| Notes | <p>Foresters use soil and topographic maps, habitat type classifications, and/or field reviews as appropriate to identify soils vulnerable to compaction and use a variety of methods to avoid excessive soil disturbance, including designation of harvesting only with frozen ground or very dry conditions for all or a portion of a harvest area. Review of logging contracts, sale narratives, prospectuses, etc. document these measures.</p> <p>Confirmed by field observations the use of appropriate methods to avoid excessive soil disturbance, as soils in post-harvest stands showed limited and reasonable levels of soil compaction and disturbance.</p> | | | | | | | | |

| | | | | | | | | | |
|-------|--|--------------|----------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| | 2010-2014 Requirement | Audit -or | <u>C</u> | <u>EXR</u> | <u>Maj</u> | <u>Min</u> | <u>OFI</u> | <u>Likely Gap *</u> | <u>Likely Conf. *</u> |
| 2.3.3 | Use of erosion control measures to <i>minimize</i> the loss of soil and site productivity. | MF | 12 | | | | | | |

| | | | | | | | | | |
|--------------|---|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| Notes | Most sites visited were level or gently-sloping and well-drained; where sites had slopes and erosion potential water bars, dispersed slash, and seasonal restrictions appear to be minimizing soil erosion. | | | | | | | | |
|--------------|---|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|

| | | | | | | | | | |
|--------------|---|--------------|----------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| | 2010-2014 Requirement | Audit -or | <u>C</u> | <u>EXR</u> | <u>Maj</u> | <u>Min</u> | <u>OFI</u> | <u>Likely Gap *</u> | <u>Likely Conf. *</u> |
| 2.3.4 | Post-harvest conditions conducive to maintaining site productivity (e.g. limited rutting, retained down woody debris, minimized skid trails). | MF | 12 | | | | | | |
| Notes | Confirmed by field observations. | | | | | | | | |

| | | | | | | | | | |
|--------------|---|--------------|----------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| | 2010-2014 Requirement | Audit -or | <u>C</u> | <u>EXR</u> | <u>Maj</u> | <u>Min</u> | <u>OFI</u> | <u>Likely Gap *</u> | <u>Likely Conf. *</u> |
| 2.3.5 | Retention of vigorous trees during partial harvesting, consistent with scientific silvicultural standards for the area. | MF | 12 | | | | | | |
| Notes | Field observations confirmed the retention of vigorous trees and the appropriate application of silviculture guidelines for removal of least vigorous and poorest quality trees and retention of the trees best adapted to the site. Foresters consistently emphasized the retention of the most vigorous trees when marking stands; results of partial harvests were very good. | | | | | | | | |

| | | | | | | | | | |
|--------------|--|--------------|----------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| | 2010-2014 Requirement | Audit -or | <u>C</u> | <u>EXR</u> | <u>Maj</u> | <u>Min</u> | <u>OFI</u> | <u>Likely Gap *</u> | <u>Likely Conf. *</u> |
| 2.3.6 | Criteria that address harvesting and site preparation to protect soil productivity. | MF | 12 | | | | | | |
| Notes | Wisconsin State BMPs for Water Quality (avoid excessive rutting) and Wisconsin DNR and/or individual county policies (defining excessive rutting) provide these criteria. Confirmed that “excessive rutting” definitions are in all recent timber sale contracts. | | | | | | | | |

| | | | | | | | | | |
|--------------|--|--------------|----------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| | 2010-2014 Requirement | Audit -or | <u>C</u> | <u>EXR</u> | <u>Maj</u> | <u>Min</u> | <u>OFI</u> | <u>Likely Gap *</u> | <u>Likely Conf. *</u> |
| 2.3.7 | Road construction and skidding layout to minimize impacts to soil productivity and water quality. | MF | 12 | | | | | | |
| Notes | Reviewed in two counties: Lincoln and Langlade Counties have organized methods in place to plan for and to track road and trail infrastructure maintenance needs and projects. | | | | | | | | |

| | 2010-2014 Requirement | Audit -or | <u>C</u> | <u>EXR</u> | <u>Maj</u> | <u>Min</u> | <u>OFI</u> | <u>Likely Gap *</u> | <u>Likely Conf. *</u> |
|-------|--|--------------|----------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| 2.4 | Program Participants shall manage so as to protect forests from damaging agents, such as environmentally or economically undesirable wildfire, pests, diseases and invasive exotic plants and animals, to maintain and improve long-term forest health, productivity and economic viability. | MF | 12 | | | | | | |
| Notes | See indicators below. | | | | | | | | |

| | 2010-2014 Requirement | Audit -or | <u>C</u> | <u>EXR</u> | <u>Maj</u> | <u>Min</u> | <u>OFI</u> | <u>Likely Gap *</u> | <u>Likely Conf. *</u> |
|-------|--|--------------|----------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| 2.4.1 | Program to protect forests from damaging agents. | MF | 12 | | | | | | |
| Notes | <p>Confirmed the following from Vilas Internal Audit Report: “n. What techniques are used to minimize threats from invasive exotic species on the county forest? (PM2.4 / 4.1) Cleaning of equipment. Training on invasives. Survey completed by LTE for honeysuckle on trails. Work with county conservation department on locating infestations (survey has been completed). Assistant Administrator serves on the Wisconsin Headwaters Invasives Partnership (WHIP)</p> <p>Each counties’ forest management plan has a section on protection: “600 Protection: Objective: To protect and manage the resources of the forest from preventable losses resulting from fire, insects, diseases and other destructive elements including those caused by people. Protective methods shall include proper silvicultural methods.” For example Langlade County is monitoring invasive species and pests advancing into the county, including: Gypsy Moth, Emerald Ash Borer, garlic mustard, buckthorn, and oak wilt and is working to control these pests and treat affected sites.</p> <p>Wisconsin DNR employs pest control specialists and makes their services readily available to the counties. County foresters interviewed were aware of forest pests, including new or emerging threats, and understand pest control and/or sanitation/salvage options.</p> <p>Wisconsin DNR Pest updates published quarterly: http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/ForestHealth/Publications.html</p> | | | | | | | | |

| | 2010-2014 Requirement | Audit -or | <u>C</u> | <u>EXR</u> | <u>Maj</u> | <u>Min</u> | <u>OFI</u> | <u>Likely Gap *</u> | <u>Likely Conf. *</u> |
|-------|---|--------------|----------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| 2.4.2 | Management to promote healthy and productive forest conditions to minimize susceptibility to damaging agents. | MF | 12 | | | | | | |

| | |
|--------------|---|
| Notes | <p>Rotations are set short enough to prevent many pest problems (for example Jack Pine rotations of 50 years or Aspen rotations between 40 and 50 years). Forest management, through stocking control and use of moderately short rotations, is designed to maintaining healthy stands. Planting and partial harvest systems consider soil/site conditions before making decisions as to which species to plant or to favor in partial harvests.</p> <p>From Vilas Partnership Meeting Report: “Forest Health Issues - Emerald Ash Borer: EAB has been found in WI. Surveys are being done and a quarantine is in effect for 4 counties in SE Wisconsin. Not impacting this area yet, but not much potential for impact (not many pure ash stands in Vilas County). Forest Tent Caterpillar: It’s coming! Oak Wilt: Northeastern corner of county – potential new location. Pelican Lake/Chicago Point infested – need confirmation, but Brian Schwingle is pretty sure it’s oak wilt. Annosum Root Rot / pocket decline: None here yet. Annosum spraying requirements on the horizon. Aspen decline: Affected areas seem to be recovering. Jack Pine Budworm: Oneida County had an issue, Schwingle has continuous inventory plots to monitor. Didn’t find much in Vilas County, but populations have been increasing in northwestern WI. Vilas County pine is a bit younger and less susceptible. Invasives: Did a honeysuckle control project on Vilas County forest lands. Intern GPS’d locations – mostly along roads. Contractor sprayed – cut-stump and foliar applications. Some garlic mustard is present in the northwestern part of the forest on adjacent (private) land. This area is being monitored to see if it moves onto County Forest land. Spotted knapweed is everywhere!</p> <p>County Land & Water Department having a presentation on where invasives were found and will offer management plans to landowners, but plans will mostly just include where to go for help.”</p> |
|--------------|---|

| | 2010-2014 Requirement | Audit -or | <u>C</u> | <u>EXR</u> | <u>Maj</u> | <u>Min</u> | <u>OFI</u> | <u>Likely Gap *</u> | <u>Likely Conf. *</u> |
|-------|--|--------------|----------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| 2.4.3 | Participation in, and support of, fire and pest prevention and control programs. | MF | 12 | | | | | | |

Notes

Summary of the fire and pest programs provided by DNR: County Forests receive forest health reports generated by WISCONSIN DNR Forest Health Staff

link to website of annual and monthly reports: <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/ForestHealth/Publications.html>. Additionally, county foresters can work directly with DNR forest health staff to diagnosis and treat forest health concerns.

Many of the county forests lie partly or completely within the boundary of areas protected from forest fire by Wisconsin DNR. DNR along with local resources detect and suppress wildfires. Many fire detection towers operated by Wisconsin DNR are located in partnership on county forest lands as outlined in WI Statute 28.11(4)f. Hazard mitigation grants are also available to counties to perform projects that help protect forest resources, such as construction & maintenance of fire breaks. Many county forest managers participate in Wisconsin DNR incident management teams that are assembled to help respond to large forest fires and other natural disasters. Attached below is a map of Wisconsin DNR protection areas and a summary year to date of fires and acres burned on all lands in this area.

Wildfire statistics

| DNR Dispatch Group (see map below) | YTD Fires | YTD Acres Burned |
|---------------------------------------|--------------|---------------------|
| Black River Falls | 115 | 268.737 |
| Brule | 60 | 109.87 |
| Cumberland | 59 | 75.85 |
| Dodgeville | 179 | 340.47 |
| Park Falls | 91 | 81.82 |
| Peshigo | 131 | 216.64 |
| Waupaca | 180 | 304.374 |
| Wisconsin Rapids | 229 | 385.95 |
| Woodruff | 104 | 116.02 |
| Totals for calendar year: | 1148 | 1899.731 |

| | | | | | | | | | |
|--------------|--|--------------|----------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| | 2010-2014 Requirement | Audit -or | <u>C</u> | <u>EXR</u> | <u>Maj</u> | <u>Min</u> | <u>OFI</u> | <u>Likely Gap *</u> | <u>Likely Conf. *</u> |
| 2.5 | Program Participants that deploy improved planting stock, including varietal seedlings, shall use sound scientific methods. | MF | 12 | | | | | | |
| Notes | See indicator below. | | | | | | | | |

| | | | | | | | | | |
|--|------------------------------|--------------|----------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| | 2010-2014 Requirement | Audit -or | <u>C</u> | <u>EXR</u> | <u>Maj</u> | <u>Min</u> | <u>OFI</u> | <u>Likely Gap *</u> | <u>Likely Conf. *</u> |
|--|------------------------------|--------------|----------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|

| | | | | | | | | | |
|--------------|--|----|----|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| 2.5.1 | Program for appropriate research, testing, evaluation and deployment of improved planting stock, including varietal seedlings. | MF | 12 | | | | | | |
| Notes | <p>Langlade County has not planted trees in over 10 years.</p> <p>Vilas County obtains seedlings from state nursery. Reviewed “Wisconsin’s Reforestation Programs - 2011 Annual Report” which shows an appropriate program for improved planting stock. Specialists and researchers are involved in the tree improvement program, and plantings of improved stock are tracked.</p> | | | | | | | | |

Objective 3. Protection and Maintenance of Water Resources

To protect water quality in rivers, streams, lakes, and other water bodies.

| | 2010-2014 Requirement | Audit -or | <u>C</u> | <u>EXR</u> | <u>Maj</u> | <u>Min</u> | <u>OFI</u> | <u>Likely Gap *</u> | <u>Likely Conf. *</u> |
|--------------|---|--------------|----------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| 3.1 | Program Participants shall meet or exceed all applicable federal, provincial, state and local water quality laws, and meet or exceed best management practices developed under Canadian or U.S. Environmental Protection Agency–approved water quality programs. | MF | 12 | | | | | | |
| Notes | See indicators below. | | | | | | | | |

| | 2010-2014 Requirement | Audit -or | <u>C</u> | <u>EXR</u> | <u>Maj</u> | <u>Min</u> | <u>OFI</u> | <u>Likely Gap *</u> | <u>Likely Conf. *</u> |
|--------------|---|--------------|----------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| 3.1.1 | Program to implement state or provincial best management practices during all phases of management activities. | MF | 12 | | | | | | |
| Notes | <p>A variety of forms and systems are used to manage the harvesting process from planning through final inspection and sale closeout, including pre-harvest contractor meetings and interim inspection forms. BMPs are covered within many of these documents and are required by the logging contract. All jobs are planned and supervised by trained foresters, and operated by trained loggers.</p> <p>BMPs are considered in the roads and trails programs as well.</p> | | | | | | | | |

| | 2010-2014 Requirement | Audit -or | <u>C</u> | <u>EXR</u> | <u>Maj</u> | <u>Min</u> | <u>OFI</u> | <u>Likely Gap *</u> | <u>Likely Conf. *</u> |
|-------|--|--------------|----------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| 3.1.2 | Contract provisions that specify conformance to best management practices. | MF | 12 | | | | | | |

| | |
|--------------|--|
| Notes | Contract provisions that specify conformance to best management practices were found in the timber sale contracts in all counties visited. |
|--------------|--|

| | | | | | | | | | |
|--------------|--|--------------|----------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| | 2010-2014 Requirement | Audit -or | <u>C</u> | <u>EXR</u> | <u>Maj</u> | <u>Min</u> | <u>OFI</u> | <u>Likely Gap *</u> | <u>Likely Conf. *</u> |
| 3.1.3 | Plans that address wet-weather events (e.g. forest inventory systems, wet-weather tracts, definitions of acceptable operating conditions). | MF | 12 | | | | | | |
| Notes | Confirmed by interviews with foresters and review of records that timber harvest planning considers weather events, with some sites on dry sands intended for the wet time of year, other sites identified for only dry weather, and other sites only for frozen ground. | | | | | | | | |

| | | | | | | | | | |
|--------------|---|--------------|----------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| | 2010-2014 Requirement | Audit -or | <u>C</u> | <u>EXR</u> | <u>Maj</u> | <u>Min</u> | <u>OFI</u> | <u>Likely Gap *</u> | <u>Likely Conf. *</u> |
| 3.1.4 | Monitoring of overall best management practices implementation. | MF | 12 | | | | | | |
| Notes | BMPs monitored by sale administration foresters, who ensure that provisions of contracts and BMPs are applied. Every 2 to 4 years the Wisconsin DNR conducts a systematic assessment of BMP compliance on public lands. | | | | | | | | |

| | | | | | | | | | |
|--------------|---|--------------|----------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| | 2010-2014 Requirement | Audit -or | <u>C</u> | <u>EXR</u> | <u>Maj</u> | <u>Min</u> | <u>OFI</u> | <u>Likely Gap *</u> | <u>Likely Conf. *</u> |
| 3.2 | Program Participants shall have or develop, implement and document riparian protection measures based on soil type, terrain, vegetation, ecological function, harvesting system and other applicable factors. | MF | 12 | | | | | | |
| Notes | From Vilas Internal Audit: "Vilas County Forestry follows county zoning which is more restrictive, 75 ft. no cut zone. 300 feet need 60 ft square residual with waiver if professional forester is involved. Designated RMZs on ground by paint lines." | | | | | | | | |

| | | | | | | | | | |
|-------|--|--------------|----------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| | 2010-2014 Requirement | Audit -or | <u>C</u> | <u>EXR</u> | <u>Maj</u> | <u>Min</u> | <u>OFI</u> | <u>Likely Gap *</u> | <u>Likely Conf. *</u> |
| 3.2.1 | Program addressing management and protection of rivers, streams, lakes, and other water bodies and riparian zones. | MF | 12 | | | | | | |

| | |
|--------------|--|
| Notes | <p>Confirmed that this program continues to operate effectively by reviews of completed and partially completed timber harvests and road and trail improvement efforts.</p> <p>Water quality considerations including lakes or rivers potentially affected by the harvest are documented for each proposed harvest on a Form 2460-001 "Timber Sale Notice and Cutting Report" and this information is reflected in the harvesting requirements within the timber sale contracts.</p> <p>Sale and/or harvest unit boundaries are designed to avoid or buffer wetlands, stream, lakes, and other water bodies. Riparian buffers associated with harvests are shown on maps and marked on the ground.</p> |
|--------------|--|

| | 2010-2014 Requirement | Audit -or | <u>C</u> | <u>EXR</u> | <u>Maj</u> | <u>Min</u> | <u>OFI</u> | <u>Likely Gap *</u> | <u>Likely Conf. *</u> |
|--------------|---|--------------|-----------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 3.2.2 | Mapping of rivers, streams, lakes, and other water bodies as specified in state or provincial best management practices and, where appropriate, identification on the ground. | MF | 12 | | | | | | |
| Notes | Streams, lakes and other water bodies and riparian zones are mapped, and are marked on the ground (red paint on trees) near harvests as appropriate. | | | | | | | | |

| | 2010-2014 Requirement | Audit -or | <u>C</u> | <u>EXR</u> | <u>Maj</u> | <u>Min</u> | <u>OFI</u> | <u>Likely Gap *</u> | <u>Likely Conf. *</u> |
|--------------|--|--------------|-----------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 3.2.3 | Implementation of plans to manage or protect rivers, streams, lakes, and other water bodies. | MF | 12 | | | | | | |
| Notes | All jobs are planned and supervised by trained foresters, and operated by trained loggers. Interviews and field observations confirmed that protection of rivers, streams, lakes, and other water bodies is of utmost concern. | | | | | | | | |

| | 2010-2014 Requirement | Audit -or | <u>C</u> | <u>EXR</u> | <u>Maj</u> | <u>Min</u> | <u>OFI</u> | <u>Likely Gap *</u> | <u>Likely Conf. *</u> |
|-------|--|--------------|-----------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 3.2.4 | Identification and protection of non-forested wetlands, including bogs, fens and marshes, and vernal pools of ecological significance. | JH, MF | 12 | | | | | | |

| | | | | | | | | | |
|--------------|---|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| Notes | <p>Confirmed by field observations that nonforested wetlands are protected by excluding them from sales where possible, and by buffering them using special colors of paint to indicate “no harvest” or “no equipment”, or by not marking any trees for harvest. Very small nonforested wetlands are generally protected; loggers try to avoid these, and foresters work to communicate their locations, but some are entered on occasion. Many sites with significant areas of included wetlands (forested and/or nonforested) are designated for winter harvest only.</p> <p>Revisions to the Wisconsin Best Management Practices took effect January 1, 2011; these specify additional protection for all wetlands, particularly seasonal wetlands, many of which are small but some of which are ecologically significant; foresters and loggers are aware of these provisions and work to implement them.</p> <p>From Vilas Internal Audit Report: “Pull out tree tops, vernal pool 15 ft buffers. Seasonal restrictions. Meet with contractor both at office and in field.”</p> <p>Confirmed from field audits from Price, Langlade and Lincoln Counties that foresters are knowledgeable of the BMP requirements to protect these wetland elements and are doing an excellent job of implementing them on harvest sites.</p> | | | | | | | | |
|--------------|---|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|

| | 2010-2014 Requirement | Audit -or | <u>C</u> | <u>EXR</u> | <u>Maj</u> | <u>Min</u> | <u>OFI</u> | <u>Likely Gap *</u> | <u>Likely Conf. *</u> |
|--------------|--|--------------|----------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| 3.2.5 | Where regulations or best management practices do not currently exist to protect riparian areas, use of experts to identify appropriate protection measures. | NA | | | | | | | |
| Notes | NA – BMPs are in place in Wisconsin. | | | | | | | | |

Objective 4. Conservation of Biological Diversity including Forests with Exceptional Conservation Value.

To manage the quality and distribution of wildlife habitats and contribute to the conservation of biological diversity by developing and implementing stand- and landscape-level measures that promote a diversity of types of habitat and successional stages, and conservation of forest plants and animals, including aquatic species.

| | 2010-2014 Requirement | Audit -or | <u>C</u> | <u>EXR</u> | <u>Maj</u> | <u>Min</u> | <u>OFI</u> | <u>Likely Gap *</u> | <u>Likely Conf. *</u> |
|--------------|---|--------------|----------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| 4.1 | Program Participants shall have programs to promote biological diversity at stand- and landscape-levels. | JH | 12 | | | | | | |
| Notes | See indicators below. | | | | | | | | |

| | 2010-2014 Requirement | Audit -or | <u>C</u> | <u>EXR</u> | <u>Maj</u> | <u>Min</u> | <u>OFI</u> | <u>Likely Gap *</u> | <u>Likely Conf. *</u> |
|--------------|--|--------------|----------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| 4.1.1 | Program to promote the conservation of native biological diversity, including species, wildlife habitats and ecological community types. | JH | 12 | | | | | | |

| | | | | | | | | | |
|--------------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| Notes | Counties visited participate with the State in the implementation of the Wildlife Action Plan, identification of SNA's and HCVF habitats and forests. County employees have received training on the applicability of the WAP to their properties. WI DNR Wildlife biologists work with the Counties to insure that these programs are recognized and implemented on County lands. | | | | | | | | |
|--------------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|

| | 2010-2014 Requirement | Audit -or | <u>C</u> | <u>EXR</u> | <u>Maj</u> | <u>Min</u> | <u>OFI</u> | <u>Likely Gap *</u> | <u>Likely Conf. *</u> |
|--------------|--|--------------|----------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| 4.1.2 | Program to protect threatened and endangered species. | JH | 12 | | | | | | |
| Notes | Counties have a mandate to protect all threatened and endangered species and coordinate efforts with the State to accomplish this. | | | | | | | | |

| | 2010-2014 Requirement | Audit -or | <u>C</u> | <u>EXR</u> | <u>Maj</u> | <u>Min</u> | <u>OFI</u> | <u>Likely Gap *</u> | <u>Likely Conf. *</u> |
|--------------|---|--------------|----------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| 4.1.3 | Program to locate and protect known sites associated with viable occurrences of critically imperiled and imperiled species and communities also known as Forests with Exceptional Conservation Value. Plans for protection may be developed independently or collaboratively, and may include Program Participant management, cooperation with other stakeholders, or use of easements, conservation land sales, exchanges, or other conservation strategies. | JH | 12 | | | | | | |
| Notes | The Wisconsin Natural Heritage Inventory (NHI) is checked prior to establishing all timber harvests. Documentation of an NHI screening appears on the timber sale cutting notice (form 2460). The species and communities included in the NHI database include those identified by endangered resources staff as threatened, endangered, and special concern and cover those that are considered imperiled and critically imperiled. If an NHI element is present within one mile of the harvest area a biologist is consulted to review the harvest plan and determine whether management objectives will negatively affect the NHI element. None have been identified on Vilas or Langlade County forestland. | | | | | | | | |

| | 2010-2014 Requirement | Audit -or | <u>C</u> | <u>EXR</u> | <u>Maj</u> | <u>Min</u> | <u>OFI</u> | <u>Likely Gap *</u> | <u>Likely Conf. *</u> |
|-------|--|--------------|----------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| 4.1.4 | Development and implementation of criteria, as guided by regionally appropriate best scientific information, to retain stand-level wildlife habitat elements such as snags, stumps, mast trees, down woody debris, den trees and nest trees. | JH | 12 | | | | | | |

| | |
|--------------|--|
| Notes | <p>County personnel employ State wide silvicultural guidelines for retaining structural diversity in even-aged management systems. County personnel attended State wide training to gain understanding and application of the new green tree retention standards. Based on recent revisions to the Tree Marking and Retention Guidelines chapter in the Silviculture Manual, foresters are marking more leave trees (individual) and painting off more pockets or clumps of leave trees, especially around wetlands. We saw this particularly well implemented in several aspen clearcuts that were visited in Lincoln, Price and Langlade Counties.</p> <p>The definition of Legacy trees is working its way into the silviculture handbook, but Lincoln and Price County foresters claim to have been protecting legacy trees for many years. The new provisions, which they are using already, require that legacy trees be described in the 2460 narrative and then indicated on the GIS (WisFIRs Two types of legacy trees mentioned as relevant in the timber types of the Newwood and Harrison blocks (rolling terrain, mixed species stands) are large white pine, often found within northern hardwood stands, and large red oak, often found in oak/hardwood/conifer stands.</p> |
|--------------|--|

| | 2010-2014 Requirement | Audit -or | <u>C</u> | <u>EXR</u> | <u>Maj</u> | <u>Min</u> | <u>OFI</u> | <u>Likely Gap *</u> | <u>Likely Conf. *</u> |
|--------------|--|------------------|-----------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 4.1.5 | Program for assessment, conducted either individually or collaboratively, of forest cover types, age or size classes, and habitats at the individual ownership level and, where credible data are available, across the landscape, and take into account findings in planning and management activities. | JH, DC, MF | 12 | | | | 12 | | |
| Notes | <p><u>There is an opportunity to improve efforts to take into account forest cover types, age or size classes, and habitats across the landscape, for example with respect to Aspen habitat conditions on county forestland within the context of surrounding lands.</u></p> <p>Each county updates inventory and runs a new WisFIRs harvest analysis each year. The analysis provides information on forest cover types by age as well as stand-level prescriptions. Foresters from the counties and the Wisconsin DNR, supported by Wisconsin DNR biologists, review this information at the partnership meeting and determine the annual work plan. This plan includes harvest prescriptions, cultural treatments, and wildlife habitat work. Often there is a separate, follow-up meeting to allocate “nickel-an-acre” habitat improvement funding. This system is central to efforts to consider county-level forest habitat information when making management decisions. Some examples of practical decisions involve efforts to balance the age-class distribution of Aspen types, to make adjustments in amount of the forest in each cover type (stable or slight decreases in Aspen types are common examples) or management of maintained wildlife openings.</p> <p>At the landscape scale the key tool is the Wisconsin Wildlife Action Plan. The 2012 audit team confirmed that Price, Langlade and Lincoln County personnel are aware of the WAP and identification of Conservation Opportunity Areas (COA). No COA’s are present in those Counties.</p> | | | | | | | | |

| | 2010-2014 Requirement | Audit -or | <u>C</u> | <u>EXR</u> | <u>Maj</u> | <u>Min</u> | <u>OFI</u> | <u>Likely Gap *</u> | <u>Likely Conf. *</u> |
|--------------|--|--------------|-----------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 4.1.6 | Support of and participation in plans or programs for the conservation of old-growth forests in the region of ownership. | JH | 12 | | | | | | |
| Notes | Where old-growth forests have been identified, the Counties have set aside these lands for old growth protection. | | | | | | | | |

| | 2010-2014 Requirement | Audit -or | <u>C</u> | <u>EXR</u> | <u>Maj</u> | <u>Min</u> | <u>OFI</u> | <u>Likely Gap *</u> | <u>Likely Conf. *</u> |
|--------------|---|--------------|----------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| 4.1.7 | Participation in programs and demonstration of activities as appropriate to limit the introduction, impact and spread of invasive exotic plants and animals that directly threaten or are likely to threaten native plant and animal communities. | JH, MF | 12 | | | | | | |
| Notes | All Counties visited in 2012 have strong programs to limit the introduction and spread of exotic plants. In Vilas County, logging equipment is cleaned before harvest is initiated, staff is trained on invasive species, and surveys were completed by an LTE for honeysuckle on trails. Oneida County requires that machinery must be sanitized prior to entering/leaving sale if invasives are present. Lincoln and Price Counties have active programs to prevent the spread of garlic mustard and buckthorn (demonstrated on a field site in Lincoln where the mustard was surrounded by a snow fence) and also have a GIS layer showing known locations of invasive plants. | | | | | | | | |

| | 2010-2014 Requirement | Audit -or | <u>C</u> | <u>EXR</u> | <u>Maj</u> | <u>Min</u> | <u>OFI</u> | <u>Likely Gap *</u> | <u>Likely Conf. *</u> |
|--------------|--|--------------|----------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| 4.1.8 | Program to incorporate the role of prescribed or natural fire where appropriate. | JH | 12 | | | | | | |
| Notes | Langlade County uses prescribed fire in wildlife management work to maintain open habitat characteristics of lowland and upland habitat. | | | | | | | | |

| | 2010-2014 Requirement | Audit -or | <u>C</u> | <u>EXR</u> | <u>Maj</u> | <u>Min</u> | <u>OFI</u> | <u>Likely Gap *</u> | <u>Likely Conf. *</u> |
|--------------|--|--------------|----------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| 4.2 | Program Participants shall apply knowledge gained through research, science, technology and field experience to manage wildlife habitat and contribute to the conservation of biological diversity. | JH | 12 | | | | | | |
| Notes | See indicators below. | | | | | | | | |

| | 2010-2014 Requirement | Audit -or | <u>C</u> | <u>EXR</u> | <u>Maj</u> | <u>Min</u> | <u>OFI</u> | <u>Likely Gap *</u> | <u>Likely Conf. *</u> |
|--|-----------------------|--------------|----------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
|--|-----------------------|--------------|----------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|

| | | | | | | | | | |
|--------------|---|----|----|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| 4.2.1 | Collection of information on Forests with Exceptional Conservation Value and other biodiversity-related data through forest inventory processes, mapping or participation in external programs, such as NatureServe, state or provincial heritage programs, or other credible systems. Such participation may include providing non-proprietary scientific information, time and assistance by staff, or in-kind or direct financial support. | JH | 12 | | | | | | |
| Notes | Counties participate with the State of Wisconsin in their SNA and HCFV programs. SNA's and HCFV's are identified, monitored and protected on County Forest property. Price County confers with Randy Hoffman from DNR on management of the Jump River Woods and Flambeau River HCFV's. | | | | | | | | |

| | | | | | | | | | |
|--------------|---|--------------|----------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| | 2010-2014 Requirement | Audit -or | <u>C</u> | <u>EXR</u> | <u>Maj</u> | <u>Min</u> | <u>OFI</u> | <u>Likely Gap *</u> | <u>Likely Conf. *</u> |
| 4.2.2 | A methodology to incorporate research results and field applications of biodiversity and ecosystem research into forest management decisions. | JH | 12 | | | | | | |
| Notes | Counties have access to research results, analysis and planning completed by the State of Wisconsin DNR which they incorporate into their forest management decisions. These include newly written management plans for some species of conservation need, the golden-winged warbler and American woodcock. | | | | | | | | |

Objective 5. Management of Visual Quality and Recreational Benefits.

To manage the visual impact of forest operations and provide recreational opportunities for the public.

| | 2010-2014 Requirement | Audit -or | <u>C</u> | <u>EXR</u> | <u>Maj</u> | <u>Min</u> | <u>OFI</u> | <u>Likely Gap *</u> | <u>Likely Conf. *</u> |
|--------------|--|--------------|----------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| 5.1 | Program Participants shall manage the impact of harvesting on visual quality. | MF | 12 | | | | | | |
| Notes | See indicators below. | | | | | | | | |

| | 2010-2014 Requirement | Audit -or | <u>C</u> | <u>EXR</u> | <u>Maj</u> | <u>Min</u> | <u>OFI</u> | <u>Likely Gap *</u> | <u>Likely Conf. *</u> |
|--------------|---|--------------|----------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| 5.1.1 | Program to address visual quality management. | MF | 12 | | | | | | |
| Notes | <p>Strict guidelines are in place along scenic rivers. All of the management plans include Section 520 “Aesthetic Management Zones”. Efforts to manage visual impacts of harvests were confirmed by field observations and discussions with foresters. Some counties’ efforts to minimize visual impact take more care to adjust practices near trails, and these efforts appear to be calibrated to local needs and expectations.</p> <p>From Vilas Internal Audit Report: “a. Are aesthetics considered in establishment of timber harvests? If so, what references or techniques are applied? (PM5.1, 5.2) Yes. Has been applied for many years. Refer to aesthetics mgt handbook. Reduce impact along roads. Utilize terrain, various species. Assistant administrator uses GIS to take time to design timber sales to include islands and other aesthetic features.”</p> | | | | | | | | |

| | 2010-2014 Requirement | Audit -or | <u>C</u> | <u>EXR</u> | <u>Maj</u> | <u>Min</u> | <u>OFI</u> | <u>Likely Gap *</u> | <u>Likely Conf. *</u> |
|--------------|--|--------------|----------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| 5.1.2 | Incorporation of aesthetic considerations in harvesting, road, landing design and management, and other management activities where visual impacts are a concern. | MF | 12 | | | | | | |
| Notes | <p>Efforts to manage visual impacts of harvests were confirmed by field observations and discussions with foresters. These efforts were focused on public roads, lakes, and concentrated recreation facilities, with reduced efforts along the many trails.</p> <p>From Vilas Internal Audit Report: “c. How are aesthetics considered when establishing harvests adjacent to recreational areas (including campgrounds, trails, etc.)? (PM 5.4) Leave trees. Mark no cut zones. Some planting has been conducted by under planting SW, PJ, PW, before removal of overstory. Convert short- lived species to long-lived species near high use areas.”</p> <p>Langlade County does not adjust harvesting near trails, but does take extra care to manage slash along public highways. Good markets and predominant use of selection systems result in harvests that are visually appealing.</p> | | | | | | | | |

| | 2010-2014 Requirement | Audit -or | <u>C</u> | <u>EXR</u> | <u>Maj</u> | <u>Min</u> | <u>OFI</u> | <u>Likely Gap *</u> | <u>Likely Conf. *</u> |
|--|------------------------------|--------------|----------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
|--|------------------------------|--------------|----------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|

| | | | | | | | | | |
|--------------|--|----|----|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| 5.2 | Program Participants shall manage the size, shape and placement of clearcut harvests. | MF | 12 | | | | | | |
| <i>Notes</i> | Clearcutting is restricted to forest types that require this method for regeneration, and these treatments are carefully planned to reduce impacts to other resource values including aesthetics. See also indicators below. | | | | | | | | |

| | | | | | | | | | |
|--------------|---|--------------|----------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| | 2010-2014 Requirement | Audit -or | <u>C</u> | <u>EXR</u> | <u>Maj</u> | <u>Min</u> | <u>OFI</u> | <u>Likely Gap *</u> | <u>Likely Conf. *</u> |
| 5.2.1 | Average size of clearcut harvest areas does not exceed 120 acres (50 hectares), except when necessary to meet regulatory requirements or to respond to forest health emergencies or other natural catastrophes. | MF | 12 | | | | | | |
| <i>Notes</i> | Confirmed by field observations that most clearcuts are small; records indicate an average of 18 to 19 acres in recent years. | | | | | | | | |

| | | | | | | | | | |
|--------------|---|--------------|----------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| | 2010-2014 Requirement | Audit -or | <u>C</u> | <u>EXR</u> | <u>Maj</u> | <u>Min</u> | <u>OFI</u> | <u>Likely Gap *</u> | <u>Likely Conf. *</u> |
| 5.2.2 | Documentation through internal records of clearcut size and the process for calculating average size. | MF | 12 | | | | | | |
| <i>Notes</i> | 17.53 acres average clear-cut size in 2011. 18.95 acres average clearcut size in 2010. | | | | | | | | |

| | | | | | | | | | |
|--------------|--|--------------|----------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| | 2010-2014 Requirement | Audit -or | <u>C</u> | <u>EXR</u> | <u>Maj</u> | <u>Min</u> | <u>OFI</u> | <u>Likely Gap *</u> | <u>Likely Conf. *</u> |
| 5.3 | Program Participants shall adopt a green-up requirement or alternative methods that provide for visual quality. | MF | 12 | | | | | | |
| <i>Notes</i> | Foresters plan all harvests, and consider green-up and adjacency in planning. Some sale narratives describe efforts to address visual quality. Green up requirements can hinder efforts to deal with needed adjustments to age-class distribution, notably when dealing with legacy stands of aspen which may cover hundreds of acres with the same or close ages. | | | | | | | | |

| | | | | | | | | | |
|--------------|---|--------------|----------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| | 2010-2014 Requirement | Audit -or | <u>C</u> | <u>EXR</u> | <u>Maj</u> | <u>Min</u> | <u>OFI</u> | <u>Likely Gap *</u> | <u>Likely Conf. *</u> |
| 5.3.1 | Program implementing the green-up requirement or alternative methods. | MF | 12 | | | | | | |
| <i>Notes</i> | Foresters plan all harvests, and consider green-up and adjacency in planning. GIS and inventory information are used in this planning. Some sale narratives describe efforts to address visual quality. | | | | | | | | |

| | 2010-2014 Requirement | Audit -or | <u>C</u> | <u>EXR</u> | <u>Maj</u> | <u>Min</u> | <u>OFI</u> | <u>Likely Gap *</u> | <u>Likely Conf. *</u> |
|--------------|---|--------------|----------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| 5.3.2 | Harvest area tracking system to demonstrate conformance with the green-up requirement or alternative methods. | MF | 12 | | | | | | |
| Notes | Sale maps and GIS; review of adjacent stands during sale set up. | | | | | | | | |

| | 2010-2014 Requirement | Audit -or | <u>C</u> | <u>EXR</u> | <u>Maj</u> | <u>Min</u> | <u>OFI</u> | <u>Likely Gap *</u> | <u>Likely Conf. *</u> |
|--------------|---|--------------|----------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| 5.3.3 | Trees in clearcut harvest areas are at least 3 years old or 5 feet (1.5 meters) high at the desired level of stocking before adjacent areas are clearcut, or as appropriate to address operational and economic considerations, alternative methods to reach the performance measure are utilized by the Program Participant. | MF | 12 | | | | | | |
| Notes | Confirmed by field observations; no adjacent clearcuts were seen. | | | | | | | | |

| | 2010-2014 Requirement | Audit -or | <u>C</u> | <u>EXR</u> | <u>Maj</u> | <u>Min</u> | <u>OFI</u> | <u>Likely Gap *</u> | <u>Likely Conf. *</u> |
|--------------|--|--------------|----------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| 5.4 | Program Participants shall support and promote recreational opportunities for the public. | Team | | 12 | | | | | |
| Notes | The Wisconsin County Forests provide an exemplary array of recreation opportunities; forest management is implemented to enhance these. Further the counties have done an exceptional job of balancing road use with environmental protections so as to provide public road access while having a sustainable road system. | | | | | | | | |

| | 2010-2014 Requirement | Audit -or | <u>C</u> | <u>EXR</u> | <u>Maj</u> | <u>Min</u> | <u>OFI</u> | <u>Likely Gap *</u> | <u>Likely Conf. *</u> |
|--------------|--|--------------|----------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| 5.4.1 | Provide recreational opportunities for the public, where consistent with forest management objectives. | Team | | 12 | | | | | |
| Notes | Wisconsin County Forests provide an exceptionally expansive and diverse range of recreation opportunities. The extensive recreational trail system is in very good condition. Facilities include picnic areas, swimming beaches, boat launches, fishing docks, campgrounds, historic sites with interpretive signs, rifle and archery ranges, an arboretum, downhill ski area, and the following types of trails: nature or interpretive, hiking, biking, cross-country skiing facilities, snowmobile, dog sled, horse, ATV and UTV, horse-riding. | | | | | | | | |

Objective 6. Protection of Special Sites.

To manage lands that are ecologically, geologically or culturally important in a manner that takes into account their unique qualities.

| | 2010-2014 Requirement | Audit -or | <u>C</u> | <u>EXR</u> | <u>Maj</u> | <u>Min</u> | <u>OFI</u> | <u>Likely Gap *</u> | <u>Likely Conf. *</u> |
|--------------|---|--------------|----------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| 6.1 | Program Participants shall identify special sites and manage them in a manner appropriate for their unique features. | MF | 12 | | | | | | |
| Notes | Confirmed: From Vilas Internal Audit Report: “a. How does the County identify special sites? (PM6.1) Training. Utilize state archaeologist. Reference of maps. Example: county forest has stands of old age PW, PR and how to manage long term. Scarification of understory to ensure re-establishment of the site and continuation of unique qualities of the stands. Consult experts in the areas of individual expertise.” Focus on older, natural red and white pine stands, generally over 100 years old. Have 2 sites that had “hits” and work with local tribes: one is a camp where some tribal members lived after old logging camps were abandoned, management by avoiding ground-disturbing activities; other site is on an island where there is day-use by boaters, and this site is only used for recreation. | | | | | | | | |

| | 2010-2014 Requirement | Audit -or | <u>C</u> | <u>EXR</u> | <u>Maj</u> | <u>Min</u> | <u>OFI</u> | <u>Likely Gap *</u> | <u>Likely Conf. *</u> |
|--------------|---|--------------|----------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| 6.1.1 | Use of information such as existing natural heritage data, expert advice or stakeholder consultation in identifying or selecting special sites for protection. | MF | 12 | | | | | | |
| Notes | Confirmed the following from Vilas Internal Audit Report: “b. How are NHI, historical, and archaeological inventories evaluated when establishing mgt. practices? Where are these reviews and mitigation measures documented? (PM6.1) Addressed via website. See what applies and modify as needed. Document in office. Document in timber sale narrative.” Field audits confirmed that relevant data bases for these elements were used with the check box on the 2460. | | | | | | | | |

| | 2010-2014 Requirement | Audit -or | <u>C</u> | <u>EXR</u> | <u>Maj</u> | <u>Min</u> | <u>OFI</u> | <u>Likely Gap *</u> | <u>Likely Conf. *</u> |
|--------------|--|--------------|----------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| 6.1.2 | Appropriate mapping, cataloging and management of identified special sites. | JH, MF | 12 | | | | | | |
| Notes | Langlade, Price and Lincoln County: A query is run for all timber sales during planning which checks the statewide database of known sites of cultural/archeological interest. If a “hit” comes up the Wisconsin State Archeologist is consulted. Foresters modify sales by putting lines around areas identified and/or excluding from sale area completely if site is considered sensitive, or agreeing to no ground-disturbing activities. The new 2460 Narrative form has an item covering this. | | | | | | | | |

Objective 7. Efficient Use of Forest Resources.

To promote the efficient use of forest resources.

| | 2010-2014 Requirement | Audit -or | <u>C</u> | <u>EXR</u> | <u>Maj</u> | <u>Min</u> | <u>OFI</u> | <u>Likely Gap *</u> | <u>Likely Conf. *</u> |
|-------|--|--------------|----------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| 7.1 | Program Participants shall employ appropriate forest harvesting technology and in-woods manufacturing processes and practices to minimize waste and ensure efficient utilization of harvested trees, where consistent with other SFI Standard objectives. | Team | 12 | | | | | | |
| Notes | See indicators below. | | | | | | | | |

| | 2010-2014 Requirement | Audit -or | <u>C</u> | <u>EXR</u> | <u>Maj</u> | <u>Min</u> | <u>OFI</u> | <u>Likely Gap *</u> | <u>Likely Conf. *</u> |
|-------|--|--------------|----------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| 7.1.1 | Program or monitoring system to ensure efficient utilization, which may include provisions to ensure: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. management of harvest residue (e.g. slash, limbs, tops) considers economic, social and environmental factors (e.g. organic and nutrient value to future forests) and other utilization needs; b. training or incentives to encourage loggers to enhance utilization; c. cooperation with mill managers for better utilization of species and low-grade material; d. exploration of markets for underutilized species and low-grade wood and alternative markets (e.g. bioenergy markets); or e. periodic inspections and reports noting utilization and product separation. | Team | 12 | | | | | | |

| | |
|--------------|---|
| Notes | <p>Timber sale contracts include utilization clauses (for example Langlade County uses 4-inch tip for cordwood, 8-inch for softwood sawtimber and 10-inches for hardwood timber). When foresters inspect harvests they consider utilization issues; some of the harvest notes included utilization comments.</p> <p>Markets exist for nearly all species and grades of wood grown on county forests. Exceptions are generally limited to less common, and less-commonly harvest species (for example white cedar). New markets are emerging (biomass or wood energy for example) and the Wisconsin DNR works to encourage this trend.</p> <p>Confirmed by field observations, supplemented by interviews, that utilization goals are tempered by requirements to leave some woody debris.</p> <p>Wisconsin's Forestland Woody Biomass Harvesting Guidelines WI DNR Pub-FR-435-09 are the basis for CWD retention in biomass harvests.</p> <p>Confirmed: From Vilas Internal Audit Report: "a. What measures are taken to ensure good utilization on timber harvests? (PM7.1) Utilization standards designated in the timber sale contract and inspected during sale. Inspections occur once per week. Pre-sale meetings offer the opportunity to discuss utilization." And "Small diameter "fuel rods" from sale sent to Park Falls. On sale areas that allow biomass harvesting volumes are adjusted. Permits granted for firewood, Christmas trees and boughs but pretty limited." Most of the Vilas County forest is on low-nutrient sites where biomass harvests are not recommended unless management goal is Jack Pine (calcium is the limiting factor).</p> <p>Langlade County: Limited, sporadic biomass markets, with one crew with an on-site chipper. If the buyer wants to take tops the fee is \$1 per ton. Biomass harvesting guidelines specify limitations for biomass harvesting by soil types (map units); in Langlade County the limitations apply to Pence sandy loam soils (3 different slope ranges) because they are "dry nutrient-poor sand. The county reports on sales of pulpwood, timber, firewood and boughs.</p> <p>Utilization in counties visited was observed to be good, with foresters checking and enforcing utilization standards.</p> <p>Price County has contractors producing clean (paper) and dirty (tar paper or biomass) and bark waste in-woods.</p> |
|--------------|---|

Objectives 8 through 13 are not applicable.

Objective 14. Legal and Regulatory Compliance.

Compliance with applicable federal, provincial, state and local laws and regulations.

| | 2010-2014 Requirement | Audit -or | <u>C</u> | <u>EXR</u> | <u>Maj</u> | <u>Min</u> | <u>OFI</u> | <u>Likely Gap *</u> | <u>Likely Conf. *</u> |
|--------------|---|--------------|----------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| 14.1 | Program Participants shall take appropriate steps to comply with applicable federal, provincial, state and local forestry and related social and environmental laws and regulations. | MF | 12 | | | | | | |
| Notes | See indicators below. | | | | | | | | |

| | 2010-2014 Requirement | Audit -or | <u>C</u> | <u>EXR</u> | <u>Maj</u> | <u>Min</u> | <u>OFI</u> | <u>Likely Gap *</u> | <u>Likely Conf. *</u> |
|---------------|---|--------------|----------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| 14.1.1 | Access to relevant laws and regulations in appropriate locations. | MF | 12 | | | | | | |
| Notes | Relevant federal and state laws and regulations are available on-line. County ordinances are listed in Section 330 with full text found in Section 900 of each county's forest management plan. Confirmed manuals in offices of Lincoln County. | | | | | | | | |

| | 2010-2014 Requirement | Audit -or | <u>C</u> | <u>EXR</u> | <u>Maj</u> | <u>Min</u> | <u>OFI</u> | <u>Likely Gap *</u> | <u>Likely Conf. *</u> |
|---------------|--|--------------|----------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| 14.1.2 | System to achieve compliance with applicable federal, provincial, state or local laws and regulations. | MF | 12 | | | | | | |
| Notes | <p>Professional foresters plan all projects, often with review by specialists from other disciplines. Regulations and laws are part of the professional training of these planners/reviewers.</p> <p>Experienced foresters employed by Wisconsin DNR review and approve most projects, and legal/regulatory compliance is part of these reviews.</p> <p>Counties must pay a 10% tax on timber revenues to the towns from which the timber is cut and a 20% severance tax to the state paid if the county has an outstanding loan balance with the State; timber revenues are carefully tracked and payments made annually. A rotating system of audits is in place and functioning to check all counties financial records, including these payments, every three years.</p> | | | | | | | | |

| | 2010-2014 Requirement | Audit -or | <u>C</u> | <u>EXR</u> | <u>Maj</u> | <u>Min</u> | <u>OFI</u> | <u>Likely Gap *</u> | <u>Likely Conf. *</u> |
|---------------|--|--------------|----------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| 14.1.3 | Demonstration of commitment to legal compliance through available regulatory action information. | MF | 12 | | | | | | |

| | | | | | | | | | |
|--------------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| Notes | No legal compliance issues over the past 12 months in the county forest system according to interviews with Wisconsin DNR personnel. This was confirmed locally for Vilas, Langlade, and Lincoln County Forests. Also searched the internet. | | | | | | | | |
|--------------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|

| | | | | | | | | | |
|--------------|---|--------------|----------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| | 2010-2014 Requirement | Audit -or | <u>C</u> | <u>EXR</u> | <u>Maj</u> | <u>Min</u> | <u>OFI</u> | <u>Likely Gap *</u> | <u>Likely Conf. *</u> |
| 14.2 | Program Participants shall take appropriate steps to comply with all applicable social laws at the federal, provincial, state and local levels in the country in which the Program Participant operates. | MF | 12 | | | | | | |
| Notes | See indicators below. | | | | | | | | |

| | | | | | | | | | |
|---------------|--|--------------|----------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| | 2010-2014 Requirement | Audit -or | <u>C</u> | <u>EXR</u> | <u>Maj</u> | <u>Min</u> | <u>OFI</u> | <u>Likely Gap *</u> | <u>Likely Conf. *</u> |
| 14.2.1 | Written policy demonstrating commitment to comply with social laws, such as those covering civil rights, equal employment opportunities, anti-discrimination and anti-harassment measures, workers' compensation, indigenous peoples' rights, workers' and communities' right to know, prevailing wages, workers' right to organize, and occupational health and safety. | MF | 12 | | | | | | |
| Notes | Each county has such policies in place; confirmed by review of bulletin boards in selected counties. Lincoln County Personnel Policy-Updated December, 2011 (employee handbook) covers nearly all of the items on the above list. | | | | | | | | |

| | | | | | | | | | |
|---------------|--|--------------|----------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| | 2010-2014 Requirement | Audit -or | <u>C</u> | <u>EXR</u> | <u>Maj</u> | <u>Min</u> | <u>OFI</u> | <u>Likely Gap *</u> | <u>Likely Conf. *</u> |
| 14.2.2 | Forestry enterprises will respect the rights of workers and labor representatives in a manner that encompasses the intent of the International Labor Organization (ILO) core conventions. | MF | 12 | | | | | | |
| Notes | If any ILO-related complaints are received the program needs to notify NSF, who must pass these along to SFI Inc. There have been no ILO-related complaints received by County Forests. | | | | | | | | |

Objective 15. Forestry Research, Science, and Technology.

To support forestry research, science, and technology, upon which sustainable forest management decisions are based.

| | 2010-2014 Requirement | Audit -or | <u>C</u> | <u>EXR</u> | <u>Maj</u> | <u>Min</u> | <u>OFI</u> | <u>Likely Gap *</u> | <u>Likely Conf. *</u> |
|-------|--|--------------|----------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| 15.1 | Program Participants shall individually and/or through cooperative efforts involving SFI Implementation Committees, associations or other partners provide in-kind support or funding for forest research to improve forest health, productivity, and sustainable management of forest resources, and the environmental benefits and performance of forest products. | MF | 12 | | | | | | |
| Notes | Confirmed the following from Vilas Internal Audit Report: “Vilas County Forestry is a member of WCFA and pays dues. Foresters are members of SAF. Show forestry committee regeneration attempts. Have support of the forestry committee for SAF. They also work with Trees for Tomorrow. UW research plots on the forest tracking growth similar to CFI. UW Stevens Point research stations for cougar studies. MI Tech bird surveys.” | | | | | | | | |

| | 2010-2014 Requirement | Audit -or | <u>C</u> | <u>EXR</u> | <u>Maj</u> | <u>Min</u> | <u>OFI</u> | <u>Likely Gap *</u> | <u>Likely Conf. *</u> |
|--------|--|--------------|----------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| 15.1.1 | Financial or in-kind support of research to address questions of relevance in the region of operations. The research shall include some of the following issues: a. forest health, productivity, and ecosystem functions; b. chemical efficiency, use rate and integrated pest management; c. water quality and/or effectiveness of best management practices including effectiveness of water quality and best management practices for protecting the quality, diversity and distributions of fish and wildlife habitats; d. wildlife management at stand- and landscape-levels; e. conservation of biological diversity; f. ecological impacts of bioenergy feedstock removals on productivity, wildlife habitat, water quality and other ecosystem functions; g. climate change research for both adaptation and mitigation; h. social issues; i. forest operations efficiencies and economics; j. energy efficiency; k. life cycle assessment; l. avoidance of illegal logging; and m. avoidance of controversial sources. | MF | 12 | | | | 12 | | |

| | |
|--------------|---|
| Notes | <p><u>There is an opportunity to improve by ensuring that the Wisconsin DNR Silvicultural Field Trial reporting system is utilized effectively.</u></p> <p>Counties participate in the Wisconsin DNR Silvicultural Field Trial reporting system http://dnr.wi.gov/forestry/silviculture/ . For example, in Lincoln County these are listed in the management plan: “810.1.9 Local Silvicultural Field Trials - To date, numerous field trials have been completed or are ongoing on the (Lincoln) County Forest. These trials currently include: White birch regeneration; Northern red oak regeneration; Black spruce/tamarack regeneration”. However these particular trials are not found on the web site. Teams responsible for chapters in the silviculture handbook use other pathways to obtain information from experienced practitioners within the county forest system.</p> <p>Wisconsin DNR funds research on a broad range of issues including the indicators listed above. Funding is both internal and external. Information from the 2011 SFI Progress Report shows funding for research as follows: \$464,101 Internal \$158,331 External: Forest Health and Productivity \$464,101 Internal \$158,331 External: Water Quality \$464,101 Internal \$158,331 External: Wildlife and Fish \$464,101 Internal \$158,331 External: Landscape/Ecosystem Management and Biodiversity</p> |
|--------------|---|

| | 2010-2014 Requirement | Audit -or | <u>C</u> | <u>EXR</u> | <u>Maj</u> | <u>Min</u> | <u>OFI</u> | <u>Likely Gap *</u> | <u>Likely Conf. *</u> |
|--------------|--|--------------|-----------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 15.1.2 | Research on genetically engineered trees via forest tree biotechnology shall adhere to all applicable federal, state, and provincial regulations and international protocols. | NA | | | | | | | |
| Notes | NA – “A review of Wisconsin’s Reforestation Programs, 2011 Annual Report” showed that conventional tree improvement is employed. For example “Seed orchards are the primary mechanism used to produce genetically-improved seed in quantities large enough to support nursery production.” | | | | | | | | |

| | 2010-2014 Requirement | Audit -or | <u>C</u> | <u>EXR</u> | <u>Maj</u> | <u>Min</u> | <u>OFI</u> | <u>Likely Gap *</u> | <u>Likely Conf. *</u> |
|--------------|---|--------------|-----------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 15.2 | Program Participants shall individually <u>and/or</u> through cooperative efforts involving SFI Implementation Committees, associations or other partners develop or use state, provincial or regional analyses in support of their sustainable forestry programs. | MF | 12 | | | | | | |
| Notes | See indicator below. | | | | | | | | |

| | 2010-2014 Requirement | Audit -or | <u>C</u> | <u>EXR</u> | <u>Maj</u> | <u>Min</u> | <u>OFI</u> | <u>Likely Gap *</u> | <u>Likely Conf. *</u> |
|--|------------------------------|--------------|-----------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|
|--|------------------------------|--------------|-----------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|

| | | | | | | | | | |
|--------------|---|----|----|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| 15.2.1 | Participation, individually and/or through cooperative efforts involving SFI Implementation Committees and/or associations at the national, state, provincial or regional level, in the development or use of some of the following: a. regeneration assessments; b. growth and drain assessments; c. best management practices implementation and conformance; d. biodiversity conservation information for family forest owners; and e. social, cultural or economic benefit assessments. | MF | 12 | | | | | | |
| Notes | <p>a. Regeneration Assessments: Jane Severt, Wisconsin County Forestry Association, is participating in an assessment of regeneration problems/issues in forestlands associated with the BCPL School Lands.</p> <p>b. Growth and Drain Assessment: Lake States Lumber Association (hardwood mills) has worked with the Wisconsin County Forest Program and with Jane Severt, Wisconsin County Forestry Association, on issues of growth, inventory, and available wood for harvest from northern hardwood forests. Wisconsin DNR provided data from FIA on county forest lands</p> <p>c. Best Management Practices Implementation and Conformance: Jane Severt, Wisconsin County Forestry Association, is on the BMP Advisory Committee. Wisconsin DNR periodically conducts an assessment of BMP compliance in forest harvesting throughout Wisconsin; the next such study will focus on county and state lands and will be conducted in the fall of 2013.</p> | | | | | | | | |

| | | | | | | | | | |
|--------------|--|--------------|----------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| | 2010-2014 Requirement | Audit -or | <u>C</u> | <u>EXR</u> | <u>Maj</u> | <u>Min</u> | <u>OFI</u> | <u>Likely Gap *</u> | <u>Likely Conf. *</u> |
| 15.3 | Program Participants shall individually and/or through cooperative efforts involving SFI Implementation Committees, associations or other partners broaden the awareness of climate change impacts on forests, wildlife and biological diversity. | MF | 12 | | | | | | |
| Notes | See indicators below. | | | | | | | | |

| | | | | | | | | | |
|--------|--|--------------|----------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| | 2010-2014 Requirement | Audit -or | <u>C</u> | <u>EXR</u> | <u>Maj</u> | <u>Min</u> | <u>OFI</u> | <u>Likely Gap *</u> | <u>Likely Conf. *</u> |
| 15.3.1 | Where available, monitor information generated from regional climate models on long-term forest health, productivity and economic viability. | MF | 12 | | | | | | |

| | | | | | | | | | |
|--------------|---|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| Notes | <p>WCFA Director Jane Severt and County Forest Specialist Joe Schwantes provide information to group members as updates occur. For example Wisconsin County Forests Association - 2011 Annual Meeting - Friday, November 4, 2011 agenda included “Responding to Climate Change in Wisconsin’s Northwoods: Reducing Risk, Creating Options – Maria Janowiak, Scientist, Climate Change Adaptation & Carbon Management – Northern Institute of Applied Climate Science”.</p> <p>Models for northern Wisconsin are suggesting warmer, wetter conditions, longer growing seasons, different timing of precipitation with less soil moisture during growing seasons; and species range shifts. Stressed tree species are expected to undergo further stress; for example birch, hemlock. There are likely to be more issues with insects and invasive species.</p> | | | | | | | | |
|--------------|---|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|

| | 2010-2014 Requirement | Audit -or | <u>C</u> | <u>EXR</u> | <u>Maj</u> | <u>Min</u> | <u>OFI</u> | <u>Likely Gap *</u> | <u>Likely Conf. *</u> |
|--------------|--|--------------|-----------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 15.3.2 | Program Participants are knowledgeable about climate change impacts on wildlife, wildlife habitats and conservation of biological diversity through international, national, regional or local programs. | MF | 12 | | | | | | |
| Notes | Most professional staff members interviewed were able to demonstrate such wildlife impacts. Wildlife technician Eric Borchert knowledgeable and able to describe examples of potential impacts. | | | | | | | | |

Objective 16. Training and Education.

To improve the implementation of sustainable forestry practices through appropriate training and education programs.

| | 2010-2014 Requirement | Audit -or | <u>C</u> | <u>EXR</u> | <u>Maj</u> | <u>Min</u> | <u>OFI</u> | <u>Likely Gap *</u> | <u>Likely Conf. *</u> |
|--------------|--|--------------|-----------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 16.1 | Program Participants shall require appropriate training of personnel and contractors so that they are competent to fulfill their responsibilities under the SFI 2010-2014 Standard. | MF | 12 | | | | | | |
| Notes | See indicators below. | | | | | | | | |

| | 2010-2014 Requirement | Audit -or | <u>C</u> | <u>EXR</u> | <u>Maj</u> | <u>Min</u> | <u>OFI</u> | <u>Likely Gap *</u> | <u>Likely Conf. *</u> |
|--------------|---|--------------|-----------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 16.1.1 | Written statement of commitment to the SFI 2010-2014 Standard communicated throughout the organization, particularly to facility and woodland managers, fiber sourcing staff and field foresters. | MF | 12 | | | | | | |
| Notes | The commitment to the SFI 2010-2014 Standard is communicated throughout the organizations via the Wisconsin DNR – Public Lands Handbook pages 290-11 through 290-13 and the County Comprehensive Land Use Plans. Commitment to certification is found in Section 325 of each county’s forest management plan. Confirmed for all six counties audited in 2012. In addition some county plans provide reference to the county resolution that authorized the commitment (“This commitment is spelled out in Taylor County Resolution # 22 Docket 2005-1-5...”). | | | | | | | | |

| | 2010-2014 Requirement | Audit -or | <u>C</u> | <u>EXR</u> | <u>Maj</u> | <u>Min</u> | <u>OFI</u> | <u>Likely Gap *</u> | <u>Likely Conf. *</u> |
|--------------|--|--------------|----------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| 16.1.2 | Assignment and understanding of roles and responsibilities for achieving SFI 2010-2014 Standard objectives. | MF | 12 | | | | | | |
| Notes | Every county and state employee involved in the audit clearly understood their responsibilities. Primary responsibility at the sites resided with the County Forest Administrators, supported by Wisconsin DNR personnel, chiefly the County Forestry Liaisons. Central responsibility is assigned to the Wisconsin County Forestry Specialist, supported by the Certification Coordinator. All employees have ready access to the SFI requirements. | | | | | | | | |

| | 2010-2014 Requirement | Audit -or | <u>C</u> | <u>EXR</u> | <u>Maj</u> | <u>Min</u> | <u>OFI</u> | <u>Likely Gap *</u> | <u>Likely Conf. *</u> |
|--------------|--|--------------|----------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| 16.1.3 | Staff education and training sufficient to their roles and responsibilities. | MF | 12 | | | | | | |
| Notes | <p>From Vilas Internal Audit Report: “c. What opportunities do county staff have to attend training either specific to, or related to, their jobs? (forestry education, safety) (PM16.1) (*List recent training attended) Lack some training for forestry technician and administrative assistant. Forestry committee endorses foresters’ involvement in professional training. SAF, WCFA, University.”</p> <p>Confirmed appropriate training and credentials of Vilas County forestry staff – both foresters are SAF Certified Foresters and have records of regular and wide-ranging training; James Jefferson has an Individual Commercial Pesticide Applicator license and took invasive training in June, 2012. Conducted a similar review of training and education in Langlade County. Also interviews confirmed strong knowledge and extensive experience.</p> | | | | | | | | |

| | 2010-2014 Requirement | Audit -or | <u>C</u> | <u>EXR</u> | <u>Maj</u> | <u>Min</u> | <u>OFI</u> | <u>Likely Gap *</u> | <u>Likely Conf. *</u> |
|--------------|---|--------------|----------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| 16.1.4 | Contractor education and training sufficient to their roles and responsibilities. | MF | 12 | | | | | | |
| Notes | <p>Confirmed that logger training requirements are in timber sale contracts by reviewing a sample of contracts for sales visited by audit team. The Wisconsin FISTA (SFI-recognized) training credential is specified.</p> <p>Interviews with loggers during field audits confirmed this training and their understanding of the issues involved in the harvests being conducted.</p> <p>Logger training certificates or training status are checked/confirmed for each logging contractor on county forest harvest sites. Foresters communicate with FISTA to check on the status of contractors by name.</p> <p>Contractors who conduct pesticide application must be Wisconsin Certified Pesticide Applicators</p> | | | | | | | | |

| | 2010-2014 Requirement | Audit -or | <u>C</u> | <u>EXR</u> | <u>Maj</u> | <u>Min</u> | <u>OFI</u> | <u>Likely Gap *</u> | <u>Likely Conf. *</u> |
|--|-----------------------|--------------|----------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
|--|-----------------------|--------------|----------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|

| | | | | | | | | | |
|--------------|--|----|----|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| 16.1.5 | Forestry enterprises shall have a program for the use of certified logging professionals (where available) and qualified logging professionals. | MF | 12 | | | | | | |
| Notes | <p>Confirmed by interviews that Wisconsin DNR contributes to the Master Logger program buy paying for ½ of the cost of enrollment and recertification of members.</p> <p>Some county forests have further promoted the Master Logger Program by altering contract requirements (e.g. more flexible bonding or deferred stumpage payment options) to encourage participation in the program and reward participating loggers.”</p> <p>All counties have programs to ensure the use of trained loggers. Confirmed that logger training requirements are in timber sale contracts by reviewing a sample of contracts for sales visited by audit team. The Wisconsin FISTA (SFI-recognized as qualified) training credential is specified, with some loggers interviewed also having the Wisconsin Master Logger (certified and SFI-recognized).</p> | | | | | | | | |

| | | | | | | | | | |
|--------------|---|--------------|----------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| | 2010-2014 Requirement | Audit -or | <u>C</u> | <u>EXR</u> | <u>Maj</u> | <u>Min</u> | <u>OFI</u> | <u>Likely Gap *</u> | <u>Likely Conf. *</u> |
| 16.2 | Program Participants shall work individually and/or with SFI Implementation Committees, logging or forestry associations, or appropriate agencies or others in the forestry community to foster improvement in the professionalism of wood producers. | MF | 12 | | | | | | |
| Notes | <p>Confirmed by interviews that Wisconsin DNR contributes to the Master Logger program buy paying for ½ of the cost of enrollment and recertification of members.</p> <p>Some county forests have further promoted the Master Logger Program by altering contract requirements (e.g. more flexible bonding or deferred stumpage payment options) to encourage participation in the program and reward participating loggers.”</p> | | | | | | | | |

| | | | | | | | | | |
|--|------------------------------|--------------|----------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| | 2010-2014 Requirement | Audit -or | <u>C</u> | <u>EXR</u> | <u>Maj</u> | <u>Min</u> | <u>OFI</u> | <u>Likely Gap *</u> | <u>Likely Conf. *</u> |
|--|------------------------------|--------------|----------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|

| | | | | | | | | | |
|--------------|--|----|----|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| 16.2.1 | Participation in or support of SFI Implementation Committees to establish criteria and identify delivery mechanisms for wood producers' training courses that address: a. awareness of sustainable forestry principles and the SFI program; b. best management practices, including streamside management and road construction, maintenance and retirement; c. reforestation, invasive exotic plants and animals, forest resource conservation, aesthetics, and special sites; d. awareness of responsibilities under the U.S. Endangered Species Act, the Canadian Species at Risk Act, and other measures to protect wildlife habitat (e.g. Forests with Exceptional Conservation Value); e. logging safety; f. U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) regulations, wage and hour rules, and other provincial, state and local employment laws; g. transportation issues; h. business management; i. public policy and outreach; and j. awareness of emerging technologies. | MF | 12 | | | | | | |
| Notes | See Performance Measure 16.2 above. | | | | | | | | |

| | 2010-2014 Requirement | Audit -or- | <u>C</u> | <u>EXR</u> | <u>Maj</u> | <u>Min</u> | <u>OFI</u> | <u>Likely Gap *</u> | <u>Likely Conf. *</u> |
|--------------|--|---------------|-----------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 16.2.2 | Participation in or support of SFI Implementation Committees to establish criteria for recognition of logger certification programs, where they exist, that include: a. completion of SFI Implementation Committee recognized logger training programs and meeting continuing education requirements of the training program; b. independent in-the-forest verification of conformance with the logger certification program standards; c. compliance with all applicable laws and regulations including responsibilities under the U.S. Endangered Species Act, the Canadian Species at Risk Act and other measures to protect wildlife habitat; d. use of best management practices to protect water quality; e. logging safety; f. compliance with acceptable silviculture and utilization standards; g. aesthetic management techniques employed where applicable; and h. adherence to a management or harvest plan that is site specific and agreed to by the forest landowner. | MF | 12 | | | | | | |
| Notes | See Performance Measure 16.2 above. | | | | | | | | |

Objective 17. Community Involvement in the Practice of Sustainable Forestry.

To broaden the practice of sustainable forestry by encouraging the public and forestry community to participate in the commitment to sustainable forestry, and publicly report progress.

| | 2010-2014 Requirement | Audit -or | <u>C</u> | <u>EXR</u> | <u>Maj</u> | <u>Min</u> | <u>OFI</u> | <u>Likely Gap *</u> | <u>Likely Conf. *</u> |
|-------|--|--------------|----------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| 17.1 | Program Participants shall support and promote efforts by consulting foresters, state, provincial and federal agencies, state or local groups, professional societies, conservation organizations, indigenous peoples and governments, community groups, sporting organizations, labor, universities, extension agencies, the American Tree Farm System® and/or other landowner cooperative programs to apply principles of sustainable forest management. | MF | 12 | | | | | | |
| Notes | See indicators below. | | | | | | | | |

| | 2010-2014 Requirement | Audit -or | <u>C</u> | <u>EXR</u> | <u>Maj</u> | <u>Min</u> | <u>OFI</u> | <u>Likely Gap *</u> | <u>Likely Conf. *</u> |
|--------|--|--------------|----------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| 17.1.1 | Support, including financial, for efforts of SFI Implementation Committees. | MF | 12 | | | | | | |
| Notes | <p>Both Wisconsin DNR and WCFA contribute to the SIC through their time and participation. Mark Heyde, Wisconsin DNR Forest Certification Specialist and Jane Severt, WCFA Executive Director are on the SIC, and the Wisconsin DNR has been an active participant for many years.</p> <p>Information from the 2011 SFI Progress Report shows funding of \$40,000 to SFI, Inc. Neither organization pays an annual fee to the SIC. Wisconsin DNR's participation and MLC Scholarship support are valued at approximately \$40,000 annually. Wisconsin DNR does partner in many of the efforts supported by the SIC including Wisconsin Tree Farm system, Wisconsin Family Forests, and LEAF.</p> <p>2011 SFI Report: "Participation by Mark Heyde, Wisconsin DNR Forest Certification Specialist, Jane Severt, WCFA Executive Director who sit on the SIC. In addition, Bob Mather, Wisconsin DNR Forest Management Bureau Director, is part of the Inconsistent Practices review coordinated by SIC and serves on the Master Logger Certifying Board. "</p> | | | | | | | | |

| | 2010-2014 Requirement | Audit -or | <u>C</u> | <u>EXR</u> | <u>Maj</u> | <u>Min</u> | <u>OFI</u> | <u>Likely Gap *</u> | <u>Likely Conf. *</u> |
|--------|--|--------------|----------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| 17.1.2 | Support for the development of educational materials for use with forest landowners (e.g. information packets, websites, newsletters, workshops, tours, etc.). | MF | 12 | | | | | | |

| | | | | | | | | | |
|--------------|---|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| Notes | <p>WCFA has supported a variety of educational efforts including; contributions to Trees for Tomorrow a natural resources specialty school; sponsorship of SAF statewide meeting, development and sponsorship of a planned Teacher's Training on Forestry Workshop (in partnership with LEAF program), sponsorship of UWSP Forestry Conclave, outreach to the Wisconsin Counties Association; sponsorship of Marinette Logging Heritage Festival; and involvement by WCFA director Jane Severt on the UWSP campus in roles as faculty advisor, adjunct professor, and contact to student SAF chapter. The WCFA Strategic Plan identifies education as a high priority.</p> <p>Individual counties also participate/contribute locally to forestry education in a variety of ways. From Vilas Internal Audit Report: "High school biology classes. Work with Trees for Tomorrow. Work with special needs kids.....tree planting. Trees for Tomorrow teaching teachers and career days. Make logging operations available for field days. News article once per year for local paper. County website.</p> | | | | | | | | |
|--------------|---|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|

| | 2010-2014 Requirement | Audit -or | <u>C</u> | <u>EXR</u> | <u>Maj</u> | <u>Min</u> | <u>OFI</u> | <u>Likely Gap *</u> | <u>Likely Conf. *</u> |
|--------------|--|--------------|-----------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 17.1.3 | Support for the development of regional, state or provincial information materials that provide forest landowners with practical approaches for addressing special sites and biological diversity issues, such as invasive exotic plants and animals, specific wildlife habitat, Forests with Exceptional Conservation Value, and threatened and endangered species. | MF | 12 | | | | | | |
| Notes | <p>This requirement is met by the Wisconsin DNR through its extension and private forestry programs.</p> <p>WCFA Executive Director is on the Wisconsin SIC, which also develops landowner information.</p> | | | | | | | | |

| | 2010-2014 Requirement | Audit -or | <u>C</u> | <u>EXR</u> | <u>Maj</u> | <u>Min</u> | <u>OFI</u> | <u>Likely Gap *</u> | <u>Likely Conf. *</u> |
|--------------|--|--------------|-----------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 17.1.4 | Participation in efforts to support or promote conservation of managed forests through voluntary market-based incentive programs such as current-use taxation programs, Forest Legacy Program or conservation easements. | MF | 12 | | | | | | |
| Notes | <p>County forests continue to buy land to expand or block in their forests. For example "Langlade County received a Knowles-Nelson stewardship grant for 50% of the purchase price of 880 acres in the Township of Elcho from the Plum Creek Timber Company..." on December 22, 2011.</p> <p>Wisconsin DNR supports the all of the above listed programs and activities: Managed Forest Law Program is a current-use taxation program, the DNR has received Forest Legacy funding, and the state has purchased and currently manages conservation easements on significant acreage of forested land.</p> | | | | | | | | |

| | 2010-2014 Requirement | Audit -or | <u>C</u> | <u>EXR</u> | <u>Maj</u> | <u>Min</u> | <u>OFI</u> | <u>Likely Gap *</u> | <u>Likely Conf. *</u> |
|--------|--|--------------|-----------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 17.1.5 | Program Participants are knowledgeable about credible regional conservation planning and priority-setting efforts that include a broad range of stakeholders and have a program to take into account the results of these efforts in planning. | JH, MF | 12 | | | | | | |

| | | | | | | | | | |
|--------------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| Notes | Confirmed awareness and use of the Wisconsin Wildlife Action Plan (http://dnr.wi.gov/org/land/er/WWAP) which analyzed the status of 556 native vertebrate species and identified 84 birds, 30 fish, 24 reptiles & amphibians, 14 mammals and 530 invertebrates as SGCN. In addition, it identified the habitats they are associated with (Natural communities), where they occur in Wisconsin (ecological landscapes) and the priorities for management (conservation actions and conservation opportunity areas or COAs). Relevant COAs are known by the counties and the Wisconsin DNR, and efforts are made to consider the COA goals during planning. Most of the Counties visited in 2012 have no COA's. | | | | | | | | |
|--------------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|

| | 2010-2014 Requirement | Audit -or | <u>C</u> | <u>EXR</u> | <u>Maj</u> | <u>Min</u> | <u>OFI</u> | <u>Likely Gap *</u> | <u>Likely Conf. *</u> |
|--------------|--|--------------|----------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| 17.2 | Program Participants shall support and promote, at the state, provincial or other appropriate levels, mechanisms for public outreach, education and involvement related to sustainable forest management. | MF | 12 | | | | | | |
| Notes | See indicators below. | | | | | | | | |

| | 2010-2014 Requirement | Audit -or | <u>C</u> | <u>EXR</u> | <u>Maj</u> | <u>Min</u> | <u>OFI</u> | <u>Likely Gap *</u> | <u>Likely Conf. *</u> |
|---------------|---|--------------|----------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| 17.2.1 | Periodic educational opportunities promoting sustainable forestry, such as a. field tours, seminars, websites, webinars or workshops; b. educational trips; c. self-guided forest management trails; d. publication of articles, educational pamphlets or newsletters; or e. support for state, provincial, and local forestry organizations and soil and water conservation districts. | MF | 12 | | | | | | |
| Notes | WCFA support for educational programs includes support for Trees for Tomorrow (including involvement in ForestFest 2012 on August 4, 2012), WCFA has supported a variety of educational efforts including; contributions to Trees for Tomorrow a natural resources specialty school; sponsorship of SAF statewide meeting, development and sponsorship of a planned Teacher's Training on Forestry Workshop (in partnership with LEAF program), sponsorship of UWSP Forestry Conclave, outreach to the Wisconsin Counties Association; sponsorship of Marinette Logging Heritage Festival; and involvement by WCFA director Jane Severt on the UWSP campus in roles as faculty advisor, adjunct professor, and contact to student SAF chapter. The WCFA Strategic Plan identifies education as a high priority. | | | | | | | | |

| | 2010-2014 Requirement | Audit -or | <u>C</u> | <u>EXR</u> | <u>Maj</u> | <u>Min</u> | <u>OFI</u> | <u>Likely Gap *</u> | <u>Likely Conf. *</u> |
|--|------------------------------|--------------|----------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
|--|------------------------------|--------------|----------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|

| | | | | | | | | | |
|-------|--|----|----|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| 17.3 | Program Participants shall establish, at the state, provincial, or other appropriate levels, procedures to address concerns raised by loggers, consulting foresters, employees, <u>unions</u> , the public or other Program Participants regarding practices that appear inconsistent with the SFI Standard principles and objectives. | MF | 12 | | | | | | |
| Notes | County forestry committees From Vilas Internal Audit Report: “Public states concerns to administrator or forestry committee.” Interviewed Vilas County Forestry Committee member Ralph Sitzberger who confirmed process for answering questions and concerns. | | | | | | | | |

| | 2010-2014 Requirement | Audit -or | <u>C</u> | <u>EXR</u> | <u>Maj</u> | <u>Min</u> | <u>OFI</u> | <u>Likely Gap *</u> | <u>Likely Conf. *</u> |
|--------|--|--------------|----------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| 17.3.1 | Support for SFI Implementation Committees (e.g. toll free numbers and other efforts) to address concerns about apparent nonconforming practices. | MF | 12 | | | | | | |
| Notes | Support for SFI Implementation Committee is provided elsewhere in this report. | | | | | | | | |

| | 2010-2014 Requirement | Audit -or | <u>C</u> | <u>EXR</u> | <u>Maj</u> | <u>Min</u> | <u>OFI</u> | <u>Likely Gap *</u> | <u>Likely Conf. *</u> |
|--------|--|--------------|----------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| 17.3.2 | Process to receive and respond to public inquiries. SFI Implementation Committees shall submit data annually to SFI Inc. regarding concerns received and responses. | MF | 12 | | | | | | |
| Notes | County forests are managed by professional staff under the direction of elected county board members (through a forestry committee that is a subset of the full board). Confirmed through review of planning procedures and records of public meetings that extensive public opportunities for comment are employed. | | | | | | | | |

Objective 18. Public Land Management Responsibilities.

To promote and implement sustainable forest management on public lands.

| | 2010-2014 Requirement | Audit -or | <u>C</u> | <u>EXR</u> | <u>Maj</u> | <u>Min</u> | <u>OFI</u> | <u>Likely Gap *</u> | <u>Likely Conf. *</u> |
|-------|---|--------------|----------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| 18.1 | Program Participants with forest management responsibilities on public lands shall participate in the development of public land planning and management processes. | MF | 12 | | | | | | |
| Notes | See indicators below. | | | | | | | | |

| | 2010-2014 Requirement | Audit -or | <u>C</u> | <u>EXR</u> | <u>Maj</u> | <u>Min</u> | <u>OFI</u> | <u>Likely Gap *</u> | <u>Likely Conf. *</u> |
|--------|--|--------------|----------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| 18.1.1 | Involvement in public land planning and management activities with appropriate governmental entities and the public. | MF | 12 | | | | | | |
| Notes | <p>County and State land planning and management activities are closely coordinated through the use of the DNR Liaison foresters and by incorporating state forest management, private forestry, and county forestry activities within the same administrative line-staff field organization. Senior managers from the three key components of the county program (county, Wisconsin DNR forestry, and Wisconsin County Forestry Association) have demonstrated continuing involvement in statewide planning efforts such as the Wildlife Action Plan and the Wisconsin Forestry Plan (efforts supported by, and required by, federal forestry programs).</p> <p>County forests are run by the citizens of each county; Public members can comment during any monthly county forestry committee meeting.</p> | | | | | | | | |

| | 2010-2014 Requirement | Audit -or | <u>C</u> | <u>EXR</u> | <u>Maj</u> | <u>Min</u> | <u>OFI</u> | <u>Likely Gap *</u> | <u>Likely Conf. *</u> |
|--------|--|--------------|----------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| 18.1.2 | Appropriate contact with local stakeholders over forest management issues through state, provincial, federal or independent collaboration. | MF | 12 | | | | | | |
| Notes | <p>Monthly committee meetings are open to the public, and County Forest Administrators welcome public inquiries.</p> <p>The 15 year plan and Annual Work Plan are brought before the county board for approval. Any citizen can provide input or ask questions; forest administrators reported that they routinely respond to requests, inquiries, and occasional complaints.</p> <p>Web sites in many counties provide detailed information on county forestry programs, including forestry committee meeting agendas and minutes, annual work plans, and annual reports and (in some cases) 15-year plans.</p> | | | | | | | | |

| | 2010-2014 Requirement | Audit -or | <u>C</u> | <u>EXR</u> | <u>Maj</u> | <u>Min</u> | <u>OFI</u> | <u>Likely Gap *</u> | <u>Likely Conf. *</u> |
|--|-----------------------|--------------|----------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
|--|-----------------------|--------------|----------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|

| | | | | | | | | | |
|--------------|---|----|----|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| 18.2 | Program Participants with forest management responsibilities on public lands shall confer with affected indigenous peoples. | MF | 12 | | | | | | |
| Notes | Counties indicate that they attempt to contact local tribes, but there is rarely any response. Both sides are in general agreement that the management practices do not adversely affect tribal gathering rights. | | | | | | | | |

| | 2010-2014 Requirement | Audit -or | <u>C</u> | <u>EXR</u> | <u>Maj</u> | <u>Min</u> | <u>OFI</u> | <u>Likely Gap *</u> | <u>Likely Conf. *</u> |
|--------------|--|--------------|-----------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 18.2.1 | Program that includes communicating with affected indigenous peoples to enable Program Participants to: a. understand and respect traditional forest-related knowledge; b. identify and protect spiritually, historically, or culturally important sites; and c. address the use of non-timber forest products of value to indigenous peoples in areas where Program Participants have management responsibilities on public lands. | MF | 12 | | | | | | |
| Notes | <p>Several counties reported sending active timber sale maps to tribes. Tribal sites are protected; any that have been identified are tracked by the State archaeologist on maps. Foresters are willing to modify sale by putting lines around and/or exclude from sale area completely as needed, although in most cases the special resources are below the surface and the recommendation is to proceed provided there is no digging.</p> <p>The team was also shown documentation of tribal gathering efforts; counties provide free permits on request. Vilas County policy on tribal gathering rights is in the 15 year plan and requires a free permit be issued within a 14 day period.</p> <p>DNR maintains tribal liaisons which serve as a single point of contact for specific tribes to the DNR. When topics that affect tribes arise these liaisons work with their tribal contacts to share information and gather feedback. The county forests rely on the DNR tribal liaisons to make these contacts and maintain these relationships and can utilize them when local issues arise. Additionally, individual county forest programs often maintain their own contacts with tribes that are affected by their management and who may have ties to the lands which they manage. The comprehensive planning process and monthly activities conducted by county forestry committees are public processes – in which all interested parties, including indigenous peoples, can participate and provide feedback.</p> | | | | | | | | |

Objective 19. Communications and Public Reporting.

To broaden the practice of sustainable forestry by documenting progress and opportunities for improvement.

| | 2010-2014 Requirement | Audit -or | <u>C</u> | <u>EXR</u> | <u>Maj</u> | <u>Min</u> | <u>OFI</u> | <u>Likely Gap *</u> | <u>Likely Conf. *</u> |
|--|------------------------------|--------------|-----------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|
|--|------------------------------|--------------|-----------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|

| | | | | | | | | | |
|--------------|---|----|----|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| 19.1 | A Certified Program Participant shall provide a summary audit report, prepared by the certification body, to SFI Inc. after the successful completion of a certification, recertification or surveillance audit to the SFI 2010-2014 Standard. | MF | 12 | | | | | | |
| Notes | See indicators below. | | | | | | | | |

| | 2010-2014 Requirement | Audit -or | <u>C</u> | <u>EXR</u> | <u>Maj</u> | <u>Min</u> | <u>OFI</u> | <u>Likely Gap *</u> | <u>Likely Conf. *</u> |
|---------------|---|--------------|-----------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 19.1.1 | The summary audit report submitted by the <i>Program Participant</i> (one copy must be in English), shall include, at a minimum, a. a description of the audit process, <i>objectives</i> and scope; b. a description of substitute <i>indicators</i> , if any, used in the audit and a rationale for each; c. the name of <i>Program Participant</i> that was audited, including its SFI representative; d. a general description of the <i>Program Participant's</i> forestland and manufacturing operations included in the audit; e. the name of the <i>certification body</i> and <i>lead auditor</i> (names of the <i>audit team</i> members, including <i>technical experts</i> may be included at the discretion of the <i>audit team</i> and <i>Program Participant</i>); f. the dates the certification was conducted and completed; g. a summary of the findings, including general descriptions of evidence of conformity and any nonconformities and corrective action plans to address them, opportunities for improvement, and exceptional practices; and h. the certification decision. | MF | 12 | | | | | | |
| Notes | NSF Lead Auditor prepared the summary report in 2011 and will do so again for the 2012 surveillance audit. These reports include the required information. | | | | | | | | |

| | 2010-2014 Requirement | Audit -or | <u>C</u> | <u>EXR</u> | <u>Maj</u> | <u>Min</u> | <u>OFI</u> | <u>Likely Gap *</u> | <u>Likely Conf. *</u> |
|--------------|---|--------------|-----------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 19.2 | Program Participants shall report annually to SFI Inc. on their conformance with the SFI 2010-2014 Standard. | MF | 12 | | | | | | |
| Notes | See indicators below. | | | | | | | | |

| | 2010-2014 Requirement | Audit -or | <u>C</u> | <u>EXR</u> | <u>Maj</u> | <u>Min</u> | <u>OFI</u> | <u>Likely Gap *</u> | <u>Likely Conf. *</u> |
|---------------|--|--------------|-----------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| <i>19.2.1</i> | Prompt response to the SFI annual progress report. | MF | 12 | | | | | | |
| <i>Notes</i> | Reviewed copy of report submitted spring 2012. | | | | | | | | |

| | 2010-2014 Requirement | Audit -or | <u>C</u> | <u>EXR</u> | <u>Maj</u> | <u>Min</u> | <u>OFI</u> | <u>Likely Gap *</u> | <u>Likely Conf. *</u> |
|---------------|--|--------------|-----------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| <i>19.2.2</i> | Recordkeeping for all the categories of information needed for SFI annual progress reports. | MF | 12 | | | | | | |
| <i>Notes</i> | WisFIRs system tracks all harvests; other systems are used to track contributions, etc. Review of documents associated with selected field sites helped audit team assess recordkeeping. | | | | | | | | |

| | 2010-2014 Requirement | Audit -or | <u>C</u> | <u>EXR</u> | <u>Maj</u> | <u>Min</u> | <u>OFI</u> | <u>Likely Gap *</u> | <u>Likely Conf. *</u> |
|---------------|---|--------------|-----------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| <i>19.2.3</i> | Maintenance of copies of past reports to document progress and improvements to demonstrate conformance to the SFI 2010-2014 Standard. | MF | 12 | | | | | | |
| <i>Notes</i> | Joe Schwantes- Wisconsin DNR County Forest Specialist maintains copies of past reports. | | | | | | | | |

Objective 20. Management Review and Continual Improvement.

To promote continual improvement in the practice of sustainable forestry, and to monitor, measure and report performance in achieving the commitment to sustainable forestry.

| | 2010-2014 Requirement | Audit -or | <u>C</u> | <u>EXR</u> | <u>Maj</u> | <u>Min</u> | <u>OFI</u> | <u>Likely Gap *</u> | <u>Likely Conf. *</u> |
|--------------|---|--------------|----------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| 20.1 | Program Participants shall establish a management review system to examine findings and progress in implementing the SFI Standard, to make appropriate improvements in programs, and to inform their employees of changes. | MF | 12 | | | | | | |
| Notes | See indicators below. | | | | | | | | |

| | 2010-2014 Requirement | Audit -or | <u>C</u> | <u>EXR</u> | <u>Maj</u> | <u>Min</u> | <u>OFI</u> | <u>Likely Gap *</u> | <u>Likely Conf. *</u> |
|---------------|---|--------------|----------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| 20.1.1 | System to review commitments, programs and procedures to evaluate effectiveness. Note: For multi-site programs the auditing requirements of Section 9 or the ISO MD-1 requirements must be followed (see Multi-site Checklist); at a minimum internal audits or monitoring that spans all sites and addresses the relevant part of the SFI Standard is expected. | MF | 12 | | | | | | |
| Notes | <p>The County Forest program conducts annual internal audits to determine compliance with the County Forest Law, the County Forest Comprehensive Land Use Plan (15 Yr. Plan), and Forest Certification standards. These are supplemented by partnership meetings and by regular review of activities conducted by the Wisconsin DNR Liaison Forester assigned to each county.</p> <p>Intensive county audits are conducted by Wisconsin DNR staff specialists on a rotating basis, on a 3-year cycle and recorded on the “County Forest Internal SFI Audit Checklist”. The records of the following internal audits were reviewed by the audit team (for the counties audited by Wisconsin DNR in the past year): Vilas 10/21/2011; Langlade September 29, 2011; Barron 9-7-11; Marathon May 26, 2011; Marinette County November 8, 2011; Oneida County September 13, 2011.</p> | | | | | | | | |

| | 2010-2014 Requirement | Audit -or | <u>C</u> | <u>EXR</u> | <u>Maj</u> | <u>Min</u> | <u>OFI</u> | <u>Likely Gap *</u> | <u>Likely Conf. *</u> |
|---------------|---|--------------|----------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| 20.1.2 | System for collecting, reviewing, and reporting information to management regarding progress in achieving SFI 2010-2014 Standard objectives and performance measures. | MF | 12 | | | | | | |

| | |
|--------------|--|
| Notes | <p>In addition to the County Forest Administrator, the Wisconsin DNR Liaison Forester and Team Leaders review & approve timber sales to ensure they are silviculturally sound and address all the ecological and social considerations.</p> <p>Vilas Internal Audit Report, page 14 has a section “SFI Group Certification Manager - Responsibilities for Multi-site Management” has 7 questions related to oversight. All responses provided further evidence of meeting the multi-site requirements.</p> <p>Reviewed the “Partnership Minutes” folder on Data CD to assess the programs to ensure that the overall County Forestry Program and individual county programs are meeting all requirements, including certification.</p> <p>Vilas 2011 Partnership minutes: September 1, 201; Location: Vilas County Forestry Office; Eagle River, WI; Attendees: Larry Stevens, John Gagnon, Brian Spencer, Michele Woodford, Manny Oradei, and Jill Nemec. Topics include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • County Forest Time Standards • County Forest 15-year Plan – Updates • SFI – Minor Non-conformances • Sustainable Forestry Grants • Forest Health Issues • Wildlife |
|--------------|--|

| | 2010-2014 Requirement | Audit -or | <u>C</u> | <u>EXR</u> | <u>Maj</u> | <u>Min</u> | <u>OFI</u> | <u>Likely Gap *</u> | <u>Likely Conf. *</u> |
|--------|---|--------------|-----------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 20.1.3 | Annual review of progress by management and determination of changes and improvements necessary to continually improve conformance to the SFI 2010-2014 Standard. | MF | 12 | | | | | | |

| | |
|---------------------|--|
| <p>Notes</p> | <p>(Agenda for the) “Annual review of progress by management and determination of changes and improvements necessary to continually improve conformance to the SFI 2010-2014 Standard. Agenda:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Review CAR responses, observations and opportunities for improvement – Schwantes/Severt 2. Summary of findings for internal monitoring of selected counties – Schwantes 3. Review up-coming audit schedule - attached 4. Other items from group <p>“Annual Management Review of the County Certification program was held 8/3/12. Attendees included Paul DeLong – WI Chief State Forester, Bob Mather – Wisconsin DNR Bureau of Forest Management Director, Jim Warren – Wisconsin DNR Public and Private Forest Section Chief, Jane Severt – Wisconsin County Forest Association Executive Director, Mark Heyde – Wisconsin DNR Forest Certification Specialist & Joe Schwantes – Wisconsin DNR County Forest Specialist. Agenda included a review of response to all CAR/OFI and a review of the upcoming audit schedule.”</p> <p>Vilas Internal Audit Report, page 14 shows one method that the central function keeps abreast of the actions of the sites (see 20.1.2 above).</p> <p>Reviewed “WCFA Cert-Legislative minutes 3-21-12” Item 5. Forest Certification which showed a robust discussion of issues raised in certification audits over the past year, including corrective actions, ways to improve, etc.</p> |
|---------------------|--|

Multi-site Certification – Two Options

A multi-site organization is defined as an organization having an identified central function (hereafter referred to as a central office – but not necessarily the headquarters of the organization) at which certain activities are planned, controlled or managed and a network of local offices or branches (sites) at which such activities are fully or partially carried out.

☐ Organization does **NOT** meet the definition above; the remaining questions do not apply and all remaining portions of the multi-site checklists may be deleted from the report.

Option 1: Alternate Approach to Multi-site Certification Sampling based on the Requirements for the SFI 2010-2014 Program, Section 9, Part 5.1 & Appendix 1

- a) What specific activities are planned, controlled or managed at the central office?
- Approval of all timber sales and any short-range and long-range plans
 - Record of each timber sale and of overall inventory through WISFIRs
 - Development of policies, procedures
 - Support for Wisconsin SFI Implementation Committee
 - Research Support
 - Climate Change requirements
- b) For each activity, provide evidence:
See main checklist above, which provides evidence of all of the above and much more.

General Eligibility Criteria:

A legal or contractual link shall exist between all sites.

☒ Yes ☐ No Evidence County Forestry Program: The partnership is codified in Wisconsin statutes 28.10 & 28.11. Order of entry is issued for each participating county; there are provisions for withdrawal of tracts; complete withdrawal would not be politically feasible. SFI Group: By resolution done by each County Forestry Committee; formal process in the public lands handbook.

The scope and scale of activities carried out by participating sites shall be similar.

☒ Yes ☐ No Evidence The sites operate within a common framework for inventory, management plans, timber sales, projects, etc. State law and regulations.

The management system framework shall be consistent across all sites (allowing for site level procedures to reflect variable local factors).

☒ Yes ☐ No Evidence Procedures are nearly identical. There are some local ordinances for land use and customized county timber sale contracts (not issues covered by the SFI Requirements) but even these have many common elements; most of the variation pertains to timber sale payments.

Central Function Requirements:

Provide a commitment on behalf of the whole multi-site organization to establish and maintain practices and procedures in accordance with the requirements of the relevant standard.

☒ Yes ☐ No Evidence Each participating county has passed a resolution authorizing involvement; the Wisconsin DNR commitment is codified in regulations and in a governor's proclamation.

Provide all the sites with information and guidance needed for effective implementation and maintenance of practices and procedures in accordance with the relevant standard.

☒ Yes ☐ No Evidence Many documents were provided and reviewed, including minutes of partnership meetings, WCFA meetings, emails, and briefing documents. There is a full-time "county forest specialist" and the WCFA provides very significant certification-related support within the overall organizational mission of supporting sustainable forestry on county forest lands in Wisconsin.

Wisconsin DNR Team Leaders coordinate discussion of CARs and OFIs at annual local meetings; Every three years each county forest undergoes a more comprehensive internal audit including financial, operational, and forest certification; WCFA has a certification topic at most of the three annual meetings.

Maintain the organizational or contractual connection with all sites covered by the multisite Organization including the right of the Central Function to exclude any site from participation in the certification in case of serious non-conformities with the relevant standard.

☒ Yes ☐ No Evidence Public lands handbook describes the process for removing a county from the group, in a section titled "Landowner Entry and Departure from the Group Organization(s)".

Keep a register of all the sites of the multi-site organization, including (for SFI 2010-2014 Standard) the forest area associated with each participating site.

☒ Yes ☐ No Evidence Public Forest Lands Handbook, Group Administration section describes process for maintaining group records, including "Lists and acreages of FSC and SFI group members".

Maintain an internal audit or monitoring program sufficient to provide annual performance data on overall organizational conformance with the relevant standard.

☒ Yes ☐ No Evidence There are several tiers of monitoring: timber sale inspections, review and approval of all projects by Wisconsin DNR, periodic field visits, and ongoing joint field work serve the monitoring function that covers many aspects of Objectives 1-7. There are supplemented by two levels of internal audits: annual partnership meetings at all counties, and each county forest undergoes a more comprehensive internal audit including financial, operational, and forest certification every three years.

Maintain an internal audit or monitoring program sufficient to provide periodic performance data on overall organizational conformance with the relevant standard.

☒ Yes ☐ No Evidence Each county forest undergoes a comprehensive internal audit including financial, operational, and forest certification every three years. Vilas Internal Audit Report, page 14 section "SFI Group Certification Manager - Responsibilities for Multi-site Management" has 7 questions related to oversight. All responses provided further evidence of meeting the multi-site requirements.

Operate a review of the conformity of sites based on results of internal audit and/or monitoring data sufficient to assess Organizational performance as a whole rather than at the individual site level.

☒ Yes ☐ No Reviewed Evidence and interviewed staff; information provided by program: "Annual Management Review of the County Certification program was held 8/3/12. Attendees included Paul DeLong – WI Chief State Forester, Bob Mather – Wisconsin DNR Bureau of Forest Management Director, Jim Warren – Wisconsin DNR Public and Private Forest Section Chief, Jane Severt – Wisconsin County Forest Association Executive Director, Mark Heyde – Wisconsin DNR Forest Certification Specialist & Joe Schwantes – Wisconsin DNR County Forest Specialist. Agenda included a review of response to all CAR/OFIs and a review of the upcoming audit schedule."

Establish corrective and preventive measures if required and evaluate the effectiveness of

corrective actions taken.

☒ Yes ☐ No Evidence Issues found in county internal audits or partnership meetings were resolved.

Establish procedures for inclusion of new sites within the multi-site organization including an internal assessment of conformity with the standard, implementation of corrective and preventive measures and a requirement to inform the relevant certification body of changes in participation prior to including the sites within the scope of the certification.

☒ Yes ☐ No Evidence Public Forest Lands Handbook, Group Administration section describes the process for designation of new group members.

Individual Site Functions and Responsibilities

Sites implement and maintain the requirements of the relevant standard.

☒ Yes ☐ No Evidence Interviews and field audits, 6 counties in 2012; see main checklist.

Sites respond effectively to all requests from the Central Function or certification body for relevant data, documentation or other information whether in connection with formal audits or reviews or otherwise.

☒ Yes ☐ No Evidence Annual work plans include certification topic.

Sites provide full co-operation and assistance in respect of the satisfactory completion of internal audits, reviews, monitoring, relevant routine enquiries or corrective actions.

☒ Yes ☐ No Evidence Audit revealed a high level of cooperation between state and county personnel.

Sites implement relevant corrective and preventive actions established by the central office.

☒ Yes ☐ No Evidence: Changes in the program over the past few years have moved into practice quickly in the counties. Third-party CARs have been the focus; site level responses/changes to resolve CARs appear effective. Vilas internal audit report had no internal CARs and only one OFI. Langlade internal audit report also had no internal CARs and two OFIs.

Option 2: NSF-ISR Multi-site Certification Justification based on MD1: 2007

Sampling and Non-sampling

End of Multi-site Checklists

Participants and Sites

Opening Meeting – Tuesday August 7, 2012

Participants

Mike Ferrucci, Lead Auditor
Dr. David Capen, Auditor (and FSC Lead)
JoAnn Hanowski, Auditor
Joe Schwantes, County & Public Forestry Coordinator, County Forest Program Specialist
Chris Martin, Forester, Wisconsin DNR (support staff for Wisconsin County Forest Program)
Jane Severt, Wisconsin County Forestry Association Executive Director
Dierdre Raimo, Forest Legacy Program, State & Private Forestry, US Forest Service (observer)
Mark Heyde, Division of Forestry, Forest Certification Coordinator, Wisconsin DNR (new, 2 months)

August 8, 2012

Vilas County Audit Participants

Mike Ferrucci, Lead Auditor
Joe Schwantes, County & Public Forestry Coordinator, County Forest Program Specialist
Larry Stevens, Vilas County Administrator
John Gagnon, Vilas County Assistant Administrator
Jeremiah Oftedahl, Vilas County Forestry Intern
Jill Nemec, DNR County Liaison
Michelle Woodford, DNR Wildlife Biologist
Curt Wilson, DNR Northeast District Forester
Phil Theiler, DNR Woodruff Area Supervisor
Brian Spencer, Wisconsin DNR Forestry Staff Specialist
Tim Friedrich, DNR Team Leader
Ralph Sitzberger, Vilas County Forestry Committee Member
Ray & Mark Metz – Metz Forest Products

Vilas County Sites:

1. Plantation 7-11 White Pine Shelterwood Harvest 2009; Mechanical and Chemical Site Preparation 2010; Planted 500 tpa 2011. Results: 2,500 pine trees per acres, some still within the grass-fern-forb layer, but many free-to-grow; also residual stand diverse; snags left
2. Sale 852: 18 acre Aspen Clearcut with Pine Retention; trees were felled and yarded in March 2012 but heavy snow followed by snowmelt led to challenges in trucking; confirmed aspen sprouting, protection of site by use of slash matt; graveled portions of access road that is crowned and ditched as needed, also used trucking mats.

3. Sale 878: 31 acre comprised of 3 uncut Red Pine stands marked for thinning and 2 areas set up for Aspen CC; discussed boundary issues, mostly resolved.
4. Snipe Lake Picnic Area – lunch stop.
5. Snipe Lake Fire Lane: Three season county forest road, road surface crowned, sides ditched as needed, good to excellent condition.
6. Sale 857: 46 acre Oak Intermediate thinning; active logging Metz Forest Products; interviewed both Ray and Mark Metz confirming training and supervision by county.
7. Sale 892: 57 acre oak intermediate thinning marked, not yet cut; marking in accordance with modern silvicultural guidelines; confirmed training and knowledge of county and DNR foresters and biologist on oak silviculture.
8. Wildlife Opening maintained by mowing; low productivity of this and 46 such openings were addressed by agreement to allow City of eagle River to spread sludge 3 or 4 times; since then the forestry department has disked or harrowed and planted to clover; will mow on a 3-4 year rotation; some areas have invasive reed canary grass and brome grass and will be treated.
9. Mixed Conifer Plantation: 27 acres planted 1994 and replanted in 1996. Red pine dominated, with some white pine and spruce; can thin in 8 to 12 years.
10. Sale 877: First thinning in red pine plantation, rows, looks great; Aspen Clearcut harvested during May-June 2012 with strong and nearly complete coverage of aspen root suckers; good buffer on Muskellunge Creek.
11. Sale 859: 25 acre Aspen clearcut with retention of mostly pine and some oak; buffered 2 vernal pools.

Price County, August 8, 2012 Price County Audit Participants

JoAnn Hanowski, FSC, SFI team auditor
 Greg Mitchell, Forestry Team Leader, WI DNR
 Kyle Schmidt, Price County Liaison Forester, WI DNR
 Joe Grapa, Forester, Price County
 Corey Verdegan, Assistant Administrator, Price County
 Pat Beringer, Wildlife Biologist, WI DNR
 Eric Holm, Forest Administrator, Price County
 Carmen Hardin, Forest Hydrologist, WI DNR
 Tom Duke, District Forestry Leader, WI DNR
 Chris Martin, Forester, DNR County Forest Program
 Jane Severt, Executive Director, Wisconsin County Forests Association

Price County Field Sites:

Stop 1: Tract 19-11

This was a 50 year old aspen stand that was clear cut to provide a younger age class in the landscape for wildlife habitat. Post-harvest green tree retention on the site was about 7% which included a 100ft RMZ along Rock Creek. The site was harvested in summer 2012 and is showing good regeneration.

Stop 2: Tract 19-10

This site was a 36 acre spruce plantation that was clearcut due to disease in the stand. Due to the condition of the existing trees on the site, little or no green tree retention was left on the site. The rationale for this was documented on the 2460. There is good aspen regeneration on the site and there is no plan for replanting conifers.

Stop 3: Holy Cross Trails

A multi-use trail system (ski, snowshoe, horse, mountain bike) owned by the County but primarily maintained by the user groups. County has memorandum of understanding with the user groups for the use and maintenance of the trails.

Stop 4: Tract 19-08

This harvest unit included an aspen clear-cut and a selection harvest in a northern hardwood stand. The hardwood stand was harvested in the summer of 2011 and was marked to favor the removal of ash and to retain oak. There is good regeneration of sugar maple, oak and pine. Some concern that Penn Sedge is inhibiting regeneration in some areas of the stand.

Stop 5: Tract 23-10

An aspen clear-cut was conducted on two stands (one 17 and one 25 acres). A red line was painted along the borders of wet meadows on the site and the logger was instructed not to enter this area with equipment. Green tree retention was achieved by prescription and was adequate to meet retention guidelines.

Stop 6: Solberg Lake County Park

This park has modern and rustic campsites, a beach and boat launch. The revenue from fees in this park are over 80k/year. A non-paid park steward is on site 24/7 to manage the facility.

Stop 7: Solberg ATV trail

The County received grants to build this trail that links Phillips to the Chequamegon National Forest. The trail has several long bridges over wet areas and streams. The County contracts with ATV clubs to maintain the trail. The trail was well built and was in excellent condition.

Stop 8: Tract 9-10

This 12 acre red pine plantation was at rotation age and was clearcut. The harvest was done in the winter of 2010 and a contractor applied herbicide for initial site prep in July of 2012. The site will be furrowed in the fall of 2012 and planted in spring of 2013. A contractor was hired to apply the herbicide.

Stop 9. Tract 9-09

The County performed a 4th intermediate thinning on a 14 acre red pine and 14 acre white pine plantation. The logger removed all aspen and orange-marked trees. The County plans to convert existing pine stands with good regeneration of hardwoods to hardwoods and retain plantations with less competition in pine.

Stop 10: Tract 8-10

This 92 acre aspen clear cut was comprised of 4 separate polygons. The landscape goal is to provide a diverse age of aspen for wildlife habitat. The site had a biomass harvest operation that utilized clean chips. An RMZ was left along the Flambeau River. Good green tree retention (old white pine) and adequate slash were retained on the site.

Stop 11: Tract 9-08

This harvest area had three treatments, a 26 acre spruce plantation removal due to disease, a 35 acre aspen regeneration harvest and a 5 acre selective harvest. Hardwood islands were left in the spruce plantation to meet the green tree retention guidelines and to promote hardwoods on the site. A biomass operator produced dirty chips from this sale. Landing sizes on biomass sites tend to be on the large size compared to non-biomass operations.

Wood County, August 8, 2012

Wood County Audit Participants

Opening meeting: Wood County Courthouse, Wisconsin Rapids WI

Dave Capen, Auditor

Mark Heyde, Forest Certification Coordinator, DNR

Fritz Schubert, Wood County Administrator

Steve Grant, DNR Liaison Forester

Steve Courtney, DNR, Area manager

Wayne Hall, DNR, Wildlife

Dierdra Raimo, USFS

Field audit:

Heather Gerhrt, Administrative Assistant

Derrick Nellis LTE Forester

Chad Schooley, Director, Parks and Recreation

Jere Hamel, Forester, Futurewood Logging

Bethany Polchowski, Forester, Lambert Timber

Wood County Sites:

Stop No. 1. Sale Number 656, South Bluff Block

Futurewood was the harvest contractor on this 92-acre sale, completed in 2010. The supervising forester from Futurewood was on site. Oak thinning/shelterwood; oak clearcut; two rock outcrops excluded from harvest. Detailed prescription was followed closely by contractor. A very clean harvest job. Interesting topography, thus a prescription with concern for the bluff community and aesthetics.

Stop No. 2. Sale Number 657, South Bluff Block

72 acres, Futurewood, started in 2010, but completed in 2012; crews were pulled off site for wet conditions, but evidence of rutting was not seen. Another clean harvest site with abundant residual forest and many trees marked to leave. Virtually no residual damage to crop trees. Adjacent landowners contacted before harvest, the standard practice.

Stop No. 3. Sale Number 645, Hiles Block

59 acres, Lambert Forest Products; started in 2008, continued in 2010; and completed the day of the audit. A wet site where operations were stopped on two previous occasions. Very dry summer conditions allowed access recently. Forester with LFP was on site and appeared proud that the harvest was finally being completed. A few trees showed damage from equipment, but CF forester allowed them to be cut.

Stop No. 4. Sale No. 683, Hiles Block, 54 acres

Futurewood, wet site and wet access road; harvest started in 2011 but finished in winter 2012. Salvage harvest, leaving clearcut with dense aspen regeneration. Bear cubs found in den during harvest; were rescued (with great publicity) and taken to rehab facility.

Stop No. 5, Sale No. 684, Hiles Block, 63 acres,

Twin Forest Products; sale has been sold but not harvested. Will be aspen clearcut (46 acres) and oak shelterwood (17 acres); residual trees marked to be retained in addition to retaining all pines.

Stop No. 6. Sale 646, Sale No. 646, Hiles Block, 34 acres

Schreiner Forestry currently harvesting farther down a CF road. Only inspection of this harvest was an aspen clearcut finished 2 years ago. Aspen sprouts with 20-feet tall or more. Residual trees left during harvest are still standing.

August 9, 2012

Langlade County Audit Participants

Mike Ferrucci, Lead Auditor

JoAnn Hanowski, Auditor

Deirdre Rainmo, US Forest Service (observer)

Joe Schwantes, County & Public Forestry Coordinator, County Forest Program Specialist

Chris Martin, Wisconsin DNR Forester

Steve Jackson, Langlade County Administrator

Eric Rantala, Langlade County Assistant Administrator

Eric Borchert, DNR Wildlife Tech

Dale Carlson, Langlade Forester

Nathan Gilbert, Langlade Forester

Curt Wilson, DNR Northeast District Forester

Phil Theiler, DNR Woodruff Area Supervisor

Mike Lietz, DNR Team Leader

Ted Ave'Llenent, DNR County Liaison Forester

Matt Jensen, Whitetail Logging

Langlade County Field Sites:

Stop 1: Tract 1152-10

This Northern hardwood stand was selection marked but not yet harvested. A crew from the marking camp marked this stand following the standard order of removal. Potential and existing wildlife trees are retained during the marking process. Uneven-aged management strategies (gap size, stocking) were discussed. No vernal ponds on this site and like other Counties in this region, foresters are concerned with Penn sedge limiting regeneration.

Stop 2: (drive by no paper work)

This red pine plantation was thinned (4th entry) and was stump treated to prevent the spread of annosum root rot. The long-term plan is to convert pine plantations to hardwood stands where adequate regeneration is present and maintain pine where there is an opportunity (less competition).

Stop 3: Tract 1178-11

This 73-acre stand was damaged by a tornado that moved through the area in the spring of 2011. Although a harvest last occurred in 2003, the decision was made to conduct a salvage harvest in these hardwood stands. Due to the wind disturbance, adequate green tree retention remained on the site including a lowland forest inclusion that was not damaged by the tornado. The site appeared to have adequate regeneration.

Stop 4: 1066-09

This sale included 200 acres of selection harvest in Northern Hardwoods and 2 acres of aspen regeneration harvests. The standards for removal were followed for marking the stand and an inspection of the site revealed that gaps of a variety of sizes, including some larger gaps were created. The operator did an excellent job at minimizing residual tree damage. Harvest ongoing on day of the audit; interviewed Matt Jensen, Whitetail Logging.

Stop 5: Tract 972-07

This 93 acre hemlock and northern hardwood stand was selectively harvested in the summer of 2010. The goal was to maintain a northern hardwood/hemlock forest. The harvest in the hemlock areas was a thin from below strategy and has resulted in good regeneration of both hemlock and balsam fir. A lowland conifer inclusion with white cedar was omitted from the sale due to markets and adequate RMZs were retained along wetland inclusions on the site. Also reviewed protection of advanced regeneration and confirmed that utilization matched contract specifications.

Stop 6: Bogus Swamp SNA

This County owned 870 acre patterned peat land (with strings and flarks) was designated as an SNA in 1995. Langlade County has 7 SNA's on it's property which have been designated by the State. No harvest will occur on this unproductive forest wetland. Discussed management and protection, roadside information sign maintained.

Site 7: Five Cent Fire Lane – many portions surfaced with crushed gravel, funded through ATV funds; well-maintained; Langlade County Administrator described approach to planning/documenting road maintenance needs.

County Forestry Department Garage (lunch site)

Taylor County, August 9, 2012

Dave Capen, Auditor

Mark Heyde, Forest Certification Coordinator, DNR

Brad Ruesch, Taylor County Administrator,

Russ Aszmann, Assistant County Administrator

Carmen Hardin, DNR Forest Hydrologist

Tom Duke, DNR NW District Forestry Leader

Jane Severt, Executive Director, WCFA

Greg Mitchell, DNR, Price and Taylor Counties Team Leader

Scott Lindow, DNR Liason Forester

Mark Schmidt, DNR Wildlife Biologist, Price and Taylor Counties

Taylor County Field Sites:

Stop No. 1. Sale 612, Tract 7-11.

This is a 163-acre sale, one stand with 85 acres of northern hardwoods selection harvest and a second stand with 78 acres of overstory removal. B&M Logging is doing the harvest, a new contractor for these managers. Nice job of marking trees for wildlife, other residuals, and an RMZ. Walking trails for hunters being mowed.

Stop No. 2, Sale 604, Tract 8-10.

A quick inspection of a seed tree harvest intended to regenerate white birch and red maple. Winter-only harvest specifications, leaving a list of green tree species.

Stop No. 3, Sale 607, Tract 2-11.

This is a 44-acre marked harvest, which includes 40 acres of aspen clearcut and 4 acres of selection harvest in hardwood stand. Some white spruce in the stand, planted in 1952, but overtopped by aspen and hardwood. Well-marked for reasonable harvest to favor a mixed stand.

Stop No. 4, Sale 585, Tract 5-08.

This is a 137-acre timber sale near Camp 8 Lake, site of a small campground and day-use area. ATV and snowmobile trails on the sale area and used for logging. Selection harvest intended to reduce BA from 115 to 80. Harvest recently completed by Smola Brothers Logging. BMPs followed well; 100-foot RMZ next to lake, and landing was clean. Residual forest stand looked good.

Stop No. 5, Sale 613, Tract 1-12.

This is a 96-acre sale, with 93 acres of selection harvest and 3 acres of clearcut. An active harvest site, where Melvin DeLaurelle was interviewed—a skidder operator. Inspected selection cut in red oak stand, excellent result. Large trees marked for cutting by chainsaw crew. Twin Forest Products is the contractor.

Stop No. 6, Ice-age Trail.

This popular Wisconsin hiking trail passes through county forest lands in several blocks and is mostly maintained by local clubs. Harvest was being conducted right up to the trail, but hikers have become accustomed to such multiple use. Logging brush is cleared from the trail daily.

Stop. No. 7, Sale 600, Tract 4-10.

Quick stop to inspect vernal pool near road and the buffer established during recent harvest. A large clearcut area was harvested during winter, but ground did not freeze well and logger did a nice job of using tops to build harvest trails, avoiding ruts.

Stop No. 8, Sale 616.

An unplanned stop to view a recently completed harvest, where utilization of tops was not acceptable, requiring a return to the site. Although adjacent to a popular ski trail, the harvest was not especially clean, with high tops and some leaning saplings, but this is the local norm for such trails and users are used to such practices. The silvicultural result of the harvest was excellent, in a productive stand of red oak.

Friday, 10 August

Lincoln County Audit Participants:

8:00-9:30 am, Opening Meeting, Lincoln County Offices, Merrill WI

Mike Ferrucci, Auditor

JoAnn Hanowski, Auditor

Dave Capen, Auditor

Kevin Kleinschmidt, Lincoln County Administrator

Dean Bowie, Assistant County Administrator

Bill Groth, DNR Liaison Forester

Joe Schwantes, DNR, County Forest Specialist

Chris Martin, DNR, Public and Private Lands Forester

Mark Heyde, DNR, Forest Certification Coordinator

Dieidra Raimos, Observer, USFS

Rick Weide, DNR Wildlife Biologist

Curt Wilson, DNR District Forester

Mike Lietz, DNR Team Supervisor

Jane Severt, Executive Director, WCFA

Luke Nigon, Lincoln County Forester

Phil Theiler, Area Forestry Supervisor

Lincoln County Field Sites:

Stop 1: T001-10-1

This site had an area of spruce that was thinned after some tornado damage in the spring of 2011. The goal is to keep this area in spruce habitat. Thinning was also done in a red and white pine stand. The long-term goal for the pine is to eventually convert them to aspen and hardwoods. There were several wetland inclusions on this site and they were protected by RMZs and filter strips.

Stop 2: T004-11-1

The harvest area included a 28 acre hardwood stand that was selectively harvested and a 26 acre aspen stand that was clearcut. Green tree retention in the aspen site was achieved primarily by prescription and also included an RMZ around a lake. There were also pockets of lowland forest that were left as retention because they were too wet to enter.

A Single Track Mountain Bike Trail was present in the hardwood stand. The trail was constructed by a local bike club with the County's permission. The trail appeared to be constructed with best management practices for trail construction and no evidence of soil damage or erosion was found. There is a good working relationship between the clubs, the County and logging contractors.

Stop 3 T010-10-1

We stopped at this site that was harvested in the spring of 2011 because there was a small area of garlic mustard that had been identified on the site. The County had surrounded the garlic mustard with a snow fence to keep animals from spreading the seeds. They have also used a weed torch to kill the plants, have hand pulled plants and have applied herbicide to the site. The County has shown good efforts and plans to prevent the spread of invasive species.

Stop 4 T011-12-1

Ongoing selection harvest in a 23 acre northern hardwood stand. Rutting confined to short section of main stem of skidding road, with limited use of logging slash to prevent rutting (equipment was small, older forwarder and hand cutting, so it is challenging to move tops as needed). Foresters were attempting to make larger canopy gaps, with small gaps and some scarification attempted near hemlock trees. Sugar maple regeneration 3-10 foot tall is present in much of the understory, reflecting recent success in reducing the deer herd, but auditor did not observe taller, older maple regeneration despite past treatments here. Auditors interviewed the logger to confirm training and awareness of protocols required.

Stop 5 T024-09-1

This harvest unit included a 23 acre aspen clearcut and a 41 acre selective harvest in hardwoods. The site was harvested in the winter of 2010 and the tops which were left on the landing were chipped for biomass in the spring of 2010. The landing, which is usually seeded by the County after harvest completion was not seeded. This was done to provide suitable roosting habitat for the American woodcock (although it was noted that it would be likely too small for that purpose). Green tree retention was left around wetland inclusions on the site. Biomass harvest specifications included cutting off tops at 4 inch diameter and leaving occasional top.

Stop 6 Trapper Morrison Flowage

This flowage was established with a berm built by DNR in cooperation with the County in the 1960's. It was created to provide wildlife habitat primarily fur bearers and waterfowl. This particular flowage has not met expectations for waterfowl habitat. However, it likely benefits many non-game wildlife species.

3:15-4:00pm, Closing Meeting, Lincoln County Offices

Mike Ferrucci, Auditor

JoAnn Hanowski, Auditor
Dave Capen, Auditor
Darrell Zastrow, DNR Division of Forestry, Deputy Administrator
Jill Nemec, Vilas County Liaison Forester
Steve Jackson, Langlade County Forest Administrator
Erik Rastala, Langlade County Forest Administrator
Brad Ruesch, Taylor County Forest Administrator
Russ Aszmann, Assistant Administrator, Taylor County
Eric Holm, Price County Forest Administrator
Larry Stevens, Vilas County Forest Administrator
John Gagnon, Vilas County Assistant Administrator
Kyle Schmidt, Price County Liaison Forester
Kevin Kleinschmidt, Lincoln County Administrator
Dean Bowie, Assistant County Administrator
Bill Groth, DNR Liaison Forester
Joe Schwantes, DNR, County Forest Specialist
Jane Severt, Executive Director, WCFA
Mark Heyde, DNR Forest Certification Coordinator
Chris Martin, DNR, Public and Private Lands Forester
Darrell Zastrow, DNR Division of Forestry, Deputy Administrator (participated by phone)

Appendix IV



SFI Reporting Form

Complete form not needed, modest changes:

Contact Person:

Joseph A Schwantes, County Forests Specialist
Wisconsin DNR – Forestry Division
101 S Webster Street - FR/4, Madison WI 53703
Joseph.Schwantes@wisconsin.gov 608-264-9217

Approved Revised Scope:

SFI Program Objectives 1-7 and 14-20 of the SFI 2010-2014 Standard for land management for participating counties within the Wisconsin County Forest Program, encompassing approximately 2.2 million acres of forestland in the following 25 counties: Ashland, Barron, Bayfield, Burnett, Douglas, Eau Claire, Florence, Forest, Iron, Jackson, Juneau, Langlade, Lincoln, Marathon, Marinette, Oconto, Oneida, Polk, Price, Rusk, Sawyer, Taylor, Vilas, Washburn, and Wood. The SFI Certification Number is NSF-SFIS-1Y943.